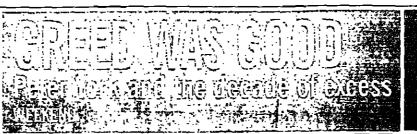


16 DECEMBER 1995



SPORT ON MONDAY 24-page section BEST FOR LIVE ACTION

(Republic of Ireland 65p)

Major warns as the Euro is born

SARAH HELM and DONALD MACINTYRE

The "Euro" was born yesterday as the European Union took the historic decision to agree a name and confirm a timetable for a single currency, despite dire warnings from the Prime

Minister. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said last night that Britain would decide whether to participate in monetary union in early 1998, despite demands by Tory Euro-sceptics for a stroyed".

Mr Major also warned that a out of EMU.

In a potentially momentous step towards a currency union,

the EU's leaders agreed to identify the list of the first states to join EMU early in 1998; lock exchange rates and set up the European Central Bank in 1999; and bring in the new "Euro" notes and coins in January 2002.

The fresh impetus towards monetary union came after the Prime Minister warned that potential conflict between a minority of countries inside EMU and a majority outside could cause the single market to become "damaged if not de-

botched single currency could act as a barrier preventing new countries from east and central

Europe joining an enlarged

But Mr Clarke took the Government's position the furthest yet in making it clear that Mr Major would not rule out between now and the election membership of the single currency in the course of the next Parliament. "I do not expect that to be in the manifesto," he

said last night. The decisions on EMU were a triumph for the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl. Mr Kohl also successfully resisted call by President Jacques Chirac of France to delay christening the currency until the name had been tested by opin-ion polling. Theo Waigel, the

The Euro in your pocket Chaos predicted page 2 French strikes page 10

French interest rates

Inside

page 18 German finance minister, who two months ago provoked a flur-ry of financial speculation by suggesting EMU might have to be delayed, said yesterday's decision sent a "strong signal to

the markets" The heads of government and ministers gathered in Madrid greeted the decision as a further proof of their dedication to making monetary union

happen.
"On the Euro we are going to build the future of European integration," the Spanish fi-nance minister, Pedro Solbes, said in announcing the name. Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, said the decision was "a strong sig-nal of determination which should discard remaining doubts and hesitations" about currency union plans first drawn

up in 1991. But there was little enthusiasm for the choice of the Euro. "I think frankly it is a fairly unimaginative name," Mr Maon its own and not as the prefix for a "Euro-franc" or "Europound", so the names of

currencies which join monetary union will disappear after 2002. Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the EU Commissioner for financial affairs, said that without a choice of name, planning for the single currency could not go

The Commission will now mount a publicity and education effort to promote the Euro in every EU member state - including Britain, even though Mr Major negotiated an opt-out at Maastricht.

In spite of the opt-out. Britain is participating in the key

single currency to keep its

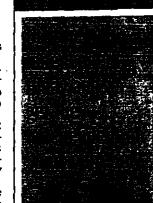
options open.

Overcoming his lack of enthusiasm for the name, Mr Major agreed to the Euro and to the timing of a shift to monetary union.

British reservations about

the single currency and its consequences for the European Union – political as well as economic - have been largely brushed aside so far.

Mr Major has said that he wants much more study of the ramifications of a system where some member states' currencies are locked together and others remain outside, warning that the EU is "sleepwalking" towards



Schools: Fear and loathing at the entrance **EXAM** Magazine

Good parties: the happiest and the **weirdest** Magazine

Surf in Scotland or win a holiday for two in Mexico

Weekend & Magazine

CHILDREN OF WAR APPEAL

Help the childen of Sarajevo

Page 12

We were

going to call it

Market frenzy after TV Bill

NIC CICUTTI

Government proposals to relax ownership rules for Britain's television companies sparked a City share-buying frenzy yesterday as speculation mounted of a media takeover war.

Share prices in many smaller ITV companies rose sharply after Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, announced vesterday that a new Broadcasting Bill would no longer restrict television companies to just two ITV licences. It will be replaced by a more flexible limit of 15 per cent of audience share.

The Bill, which goes beyond ly clears the way for some media groups, including Granada, Carlton and MAI, to try to snap up smaller companies. When the Bill is enacted in the new year Carlton and Granada, who share 16.6 per cent of total audience, will be able to acquire other ITV companies, hugely

expanding their power.

Mrs Bottomley said yesterday: "Our proposals will liberaté British broadcasters to become world leaders."

Shares in some likely targets rose dramatically. Ulster TV added almost £100m to its market value of £1.3bn as shares rose 68p to £10.23. The value of HTV rose by about £25m to about £260m, as shares rose from 269p to 302p. Grampian rose top to 219p, adding £5m to its Ecom market value.

However, shares in potential predators for some of the smaller companies remained flat or dipped. Carlton, which already owns Central and has stakes in two others, was down 18p to 958p, and MAI fell 9p to 310.5p.

A Carlton Communications spokesman nevertheless de-Scribed the proposed Bill as very good news for the industry". He declined to say whether his company would be prepar-

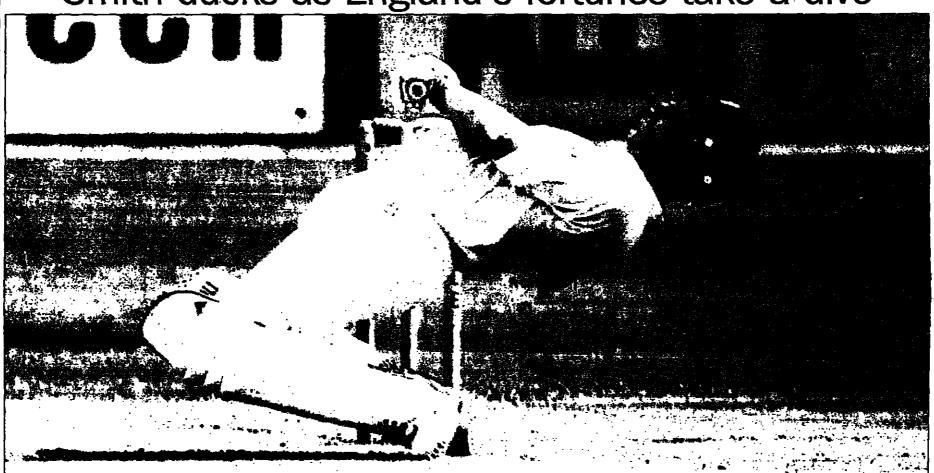
ing bids for any others. Cross-media ownership rules are also relaxed. Television companies will be able to own newspapers totalling up to one-fifth of national circulation, while newspaper groups can own ITV or Channel 5 licences, subject to the 15 per cent rule.

This is good news for Asso-ciated, which owns the Evening Standard and Daily Mail, United, which owns the Express newspapers, and Telegraph pic. Mirror Group - which has the Independent and the Daily Mirror - and News International, which CHAILS the Stat. News of the World. Times and Sunday Times, lose out. Both control more than onetifth of national circulation.

Liberalising Bill, page (Takeover war, page 18 Comment, page 19



jor said. The name will be used decisions before the move to a Smith ducks as England's fortunes take a dive



Down but not out: Robin Smith evading a bouncer from Shaun Pollock during England's first innings in the Third Test against South Africa in Durban yesterday. England struggled to 123-5 before bad light stopped play. Earlier, England had bowled South Africa out for 225 in their first innings. Derek Pringle, page 28 Photograph: Lawrence Griffiths

and all the inhabitants of the bitumen, and made of rock

Oxford don jailed for books theft

PETER VICTOR

An Oxford University academic, one of Britain's leading experts on baroque music, was jailed for two years yesterday after he admitted stealing rare antique books from college libraries in Oxford and London and selling them to pay off his

mortgage.

Dr Simon Heighes, 33, a fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, was regarded as an eminent, respected and trustworthy academic, prosecuting counsel Anthony McGeorge told Oxford Crown Court.

"But over a period of three years from 1992 he began to take books from various

Religious Affairs Correspondent

British geologists claim to have

solved two of the most per-

plexing problems of Biblical scholarship: why did Lot's wife

turn into a pillar of sait, and

what exactly were the inhabi-

According to the book of Genesis, Sodom was destroyed

by God in a rain of brimstone

from heaven after its inhabitants

had attempted to gang-rape

two angels who were staying

there with a righteous man named Lot, and had refused

Lot's counter offer of two vir-

gin daughters. Lot, with his

vife and daughters, fled the city

tants of Gomorrah up to?

liked to take them home to copy them, but then became frightened of taking them back in case he was caught."

Heighes, who also lectures at Trinity College in London, was well known to BBC Radio 3 and World Service listeners for his music programmes. Mr McGeorge said the schol-

ar began to sell the rare volumes to Blackwell's book shop in Oxford and the auctioneer Sotheby's in London, pocketing over £140,000. He told the dealer they had come from his late grandfather's collection. The court heard Heighes

BIBLICAL

Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brim-

stone and fire from the LORD

out of heaven; and he overthrew

those cities, and all the valley,

was a 1690 John Locke treatise and the rare Halley's Catalogus Stelliarum Australium. He stole a first edition of Sir Isaac Newpicked up the proceeds from six master works. Among them ton's Principia Mathematica

cities, and what grew on the ground, But Lot's wife behind

him looked back, and she became a pillar of salt."

The name of Sodom thus be-

came the epitome of evil and

decadence in the Bible; and the

sin of Sodom identified with

homosexuality, possibly because

Lot, the Sodomite made good,

was later seduced by both his

daughters in turn, and their

offspring went on to found

In an article in the Quarter-

rock from the Lisan peninsula.

which ints into the Dead Sea.

and found them to be full of

numerous tribes.

Biblical tale taken with a pinch of salt

from the Christ Church Li-brary in Oxford and sold it to Blackwell's for £63,500. Blackwell's sold it on after making a £4,000 profit and Mr McGeorge said it was now in the United States and unlikely to return. Heighes admitted 12 charges of theft and obtaining proper-ty by deception and asked for

113 other offences to be con-When Judge Francis Allen

said it was extraordinary for Blackwell's to have bought some of the books, Mr McGeorge replied: "They were dealing with a man of eminence and respectability and a trustworthy academic. Heighes was a member of the Christ Church Col-

types which will liquefy in a

sufficiently large earthquake.

According to the geologists, the bitumen pits, which are

also mentioned in Genesis,

earthquake, which would also

throw the waves of the Dead

Sea into such confusion that

sait-floes could rear up and

form a momentary shape of a

woman looking back at the cat-

aclysm. Hence, they say, the ori-

gin of the legend of Lot's wife.

modern terms. Gomorrah was

in the oil business and Sodom

was in marketing.

The cities of the plain, the ge-

might burst into flames in an

abused the privilege to which he had access." He added that Blackwell's and Sotheby's are trying to recover the books they sold on Heighes's behalf. Patrick Eccles, defending, told the court Heighes felt "a genuine sense of shame and per-sonal guilt". He said the don had

used the money to pay off his mortgage. Heighes sold his home for £149,000 and, with an inheritance, had £195,000 available for compensation. The judge told Heighes he had "grossly abused" the trust shown in him. He said he would

deal with matters of compensation in January after agreement is reached over figures.

IN BRIEF

Riot shotgun wounds Two people suffered shotgun wounds in the Brixton riots, it emerged yesterday.

Campaigners derailed Anti-rail privatisation cam-paigners failed to delay the ale of rail services. Page 6

Classic choice

Children read few classics and prefer romances and horror stories, a survey says. Page 5

Football transfer threat The entire football transfer system is under threat after the European Court of Justice backed a Belgian player's fight to end clubs' right to buy and sell out-

by Journal of Engineering Geology, two British geologists, Graham Harris and Anthony Beardow, have analysed soil and the mining of bitumen, a tarry precursor to oil. So, in of-contract players. Page 27 **loday's weather** Dry with sunny periods after early fog.

Bishops Finger. But. ooh, yes we did didn't we. THE SERIOUS BEER WITH THE SILLY NAME.

section SHARES 20 SPORT 22-28 UNIT TRUSTS 21 WEATHER 2

the next morning, urged by the angels not to look back. BUSINESS 18-21 COMMENT 16,17 CROSSWORD 2,28 GAZETTE 14 LEADING ARTICLES 16 LETTERS 16 NEWS 2-13 OBITUARIES 14

Independent WEEKEND

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حكذا من الأصل

news

Madrid summit: Date is set for single currency as Germans and French dismiss Britain's complaints over EMU

Out on the streets with the Euro in your pocket

Could it be this? An imaginary

Sarah Helm

If the Government decides to join the single currency, British consumers will want to know what will happen when the pound disappears. Here we an-When will I be using the Euro? Although the launch of monetary union is set for 1 January 1999, with the locking of exchange rates, the public will not see the colour of their new money until 2002. Euro notes and

existing national notes and coins. After I July 2002 the pound will not be legal tender and only the Euro will be used. How will I understand shop prices once the Euro comes in? The value of the Euro will equal the value of one Ecu, which is Europe's present hasket currency. On present rates, the Euro will equal about 83p.

You will have to learn to cal-culate prices of groceries and other everyday purchases in Euros. During the six-month hand-over peried, shops will probably have to display prices six-month period in which Euros will be used in tandem with shillings and pence, to help the public too, if it is to keep

about values. In many ways the Where will I get information?

campaign in history will be launched to teach people about the single currency. Television The European Commission is planning the campaign and

Perhaps the biggest education

Euro starring Jacques Santer member states will get geared up soon. The British governopen the option of joining up. In the run-up to the launch, schoolbooks will have to be re-written and the school cur-

riculum changed so children learn about the Euro. Organisations for the blind already insist that the new coins should be easily identifiable by touch. Aid groups will be taught how to take old people through the

What will the notes and coins look like? Will the Queen's bead stay?

The coins are expected to be "two-tone" in design, rather like the French 10-franc piece, with a ring of gold surrounded by a ring of silver. Euro notes and coins are likely to be vir-tually identical in all member states to avoid confusion.

are likely to be displayed on the currency. The currency may show historic buildings, artists, or animals. Governments may agree to allow tiny national symbols to remain but there is unlikely to be enough room for the Queen's head.

What happens to my savings? Banks and building societies will automatically convert your savings in Euros but not until 2002. Although banks will start to carry out their own internal operations in Euros after 1999, customers will not be issued bank statements in Euros until

Again, these payments will be converted automatically to their How will interest rates be

After 1999, interest rates will be set by the new Enropean Central Bank and they will be the same for all countries inside monetary union.

What are the components of the Enro going to be called - the

That is not decided. Some wits suggest the Eurine; but they are just taking the mickey . . .

Observer raises price to £1

The Observer will increase its price from 90p to £1 tomorrow, in spite of a 26,000 fall in circulation last month compared with November last year.

The Guardian, owner of the Observer, spent several million pounds relaunching its Sunday sister newspaper in Septem-ber. Sales at first improved, but have since fallen 5.1 per cent below the level they were at during the same period last year.

By contrast, the Independent on Sunday recorded a 4.1 per same month in 1994, the largest increase among broadsheet Sunday newspapers. Last meeth the *Independent's* Sunday sister sold an average of 327,526

The Guardian's Saturday nice will also rise next week, by Op to 60p. That will make the udian 10p more than the Independent on Saturdays. It is al-ready 10p more than the

Independent on weekdays.
The news follows significant gains in circulation for the Independent over the past year. Audit Bureau of Circulation figures for November show average daily sales of 293,777, which is 3.500 (1.4 per cent) better than the same month last year.

David Selbourne

The author David Selbourne has accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages over a review in the Independent which the British National Party.

Mr Selbourne, 58, published The Principle of Duty, which set out a framework for a better social order and how this might be achieved. He complained that the comparison with the BNP was exceptionally offensive, damaging and lacking in any justification.

The newspaper's case was that the words complained of were fair comment on a matter of public interest. Shortly before the case was due to come to court, the publishers of the *Independent*, Newspaper Publishing plc, paid a substan-tial sum of money into court which Mr Selbourne agreed to accept. The newspaper is obliged to pay his reasonable



Hands on: The new Nato general secretary, Javier Solana (left), shakes hands with Defence Secretary Malcolm Riffond as John Major (centre) talks to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at the first working session of EU summit in Madrid

Major warns of DEUROPEO chaos and a divided Europe

DONALD MACINTYRE

As the prospect of the single currency moved closer yester-day, with the naming of the new Euro, John Major made an increasingly urgent drive to raise the fears that monetary union could divide Europe and destroy the single market.

Mr Major denied that his warnings were an attempt to delay the launch of the single currency in the states which want to go ahead. But his analysis of the dangers - and particularly of a split between a minority in side and a majority outside, the so-called "ins and outs" - was more concrete than ever.

"It is the biggest decision the European Union has ever had to take, and if we get it wrong it will cause chaos across the community," he told the council. "I want a Europe that works, and not a divided Europe." Mr Major's comments, however, did little to halt the new wave of determination, expressed yesterday by other member states, to proceed towards the single currency launch in

While some of the poorer countries, who have only a slim chance of qualifying for EMU membership in 1999, echoed some of Mr Major's concerns. both the Germans and French gave little credence to Britain's complaints. "If Britain is worried about ins and outs it should be in," said Michel Barnier, the French minister for Europe.

Paradoxically, Mr Major's warnings only served to draw attention to Britain's growing acceptance that the single currency may indeed come about, as planned, in 1999. Six

if monetary union were a pro-ject for the distant future. Yesterday, in dramatically different language, he said Britain was now working on the "hypothesis" that some member states would go ahead in 1999.

Six months ago, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said that single currency notes and coins would not be introduced for many years, "if ever". Yesterday Mr Clarke said there was now a "60-40" chance that some members of the EU would enter a single currency in 1999. Introduction of notes and coins

THE TIMETABLE

JANUARY 1998: European Council decides which member states will join a single currency; European Central

JANUARY 1999: Exchange rates among participating currencies are locked; ECB goes into operation, carry ing out monetary policy; any transaction can take place in the single currency, but national paper currency and coins continue to JANUARY 2002: New paper currency and coins put in circulation; national money ceases to be legal tender after six months.

was finalised yesterday for July 2002. Britain was even in the embarrassing position of agreeing to a name for the single currency.

The wording of today's final communiqué will show how far Mr Major has persuaded his counterparts to let finance ministers widen their current study of the exchange rate implica-

Of the stomach (7) Use (5)

American writer (7)

months ago Mr Major spoke as tions of a single currency to covir monetary union were a proraised yesterday. British officials said Felipe Gonzalez, President of the Council, had been presidency in the first half of next year to proceed with a still have a fight on his hands when it comes to negotiating the

> The Prime Minister started out in yesterday's morning session by declaring that "single currency" was itself a "misnomer". With only a small number of countries willing or able to participate by 1999, the Euro would be only one of 10 currencies, covering less than half

the EU's population.

The EU might find its budget being drained, both to help outsiders as they struggled to qualify for EMU membership, and to cushion countries inside from the destabilising effect this has. This, said Mr Major, would be "real Alice in Wonderland" - at a time when we are "insisting on national budget stringency to make EMU work".

Envisaging a serious conflict and outs, he raised worries about whether the singlecurrency countries would vote as a block on a wide range of issues, and asked his partners how to ensure the single currency does not "build up barriers" for the existing 15 member states.

Mr Major then suggested that EMU might hold up the process of enlargement, one of Poland. the EU's prime objectives. Unless the problems thrown up by the single currency could be resolved, it could become "impossible" for new members ever to participate fully in EMU.

Eastern expansion sparks row

SARAH HELM

to let Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary join the union first.

Amid mounting confusion about the timetable for expansion, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has suggested that the political priority must be first to bring in states on Germany's eastern flank, and particularly

However, the Scandinavians are angry that such a move would exclude the Baltic states, which they say are equally qualified for EU membership. Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime

to the German initiative yesThe first signs of a row over the timetable for European expanto the German initiative yesterday, and the issue is expectterday, and the issue is expectterday again today

for the new members can be sion emerged yesterday when heads of government admitted, and long transition are made about which countries sweden opposed German plans meet leaders of the former periods are likely. communist countries in Madrid to discuss the enlargement

> process. for the EU, but doubts have yet to be resolved about the timetable, and the effect the enlargement will have on the existing EU structures and budget. Enlargement could bring EU membership up to 27,

including Cyprus and Malta. Hungary, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Romania and Slovakia have aiready applied for membership and others are preparing to do so.

Minister, voiced his opposition The EU will require stringent Britain, believe that the readito the German initiative yes-proof of commitment to a mar-

Expanding the union is a potentially divisive issue as it will require radical reforms of agricultural and regional aid spending, potentially draining EU funds. An expanded EU will also increase the need for streamlined decision-making within its institutions. The prospect of expansion was a key reason for launching next year's

Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC) on EU reform. Several countries, including

should join first.

John Major, who backs en-

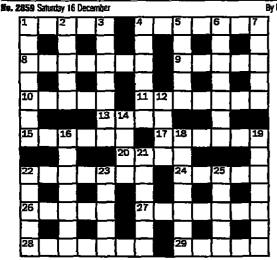
largement, is expected today to propose that the European Commission should conduct a study of the position of each would-be member, to be completed by mid-1997. One idea is for negotiations with the states deemed to be ready to begin six months after the end of the IGC, expected in spring 1997. The EU has already agreed to start ne-gotiations with Malta and Cyprus at this point.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS mai. 13 weeks: Europe £110.78; Zone 1 (Mdd est, America, Aliona and India) £184,08; York 2 (Fa East and Australasian £206,70. Its order, please sen eres Levi to 43 Millionistana. London E14 95R of Mi hone 0171-538 8268. Credit cards verborne. BACK ISSUES

concise crossword



ACROSS

Eat grass (5) Nervous reaction (7) From Thailand (7) Headdress (5) Regulations (5) Fops (7)

Precious stone (4) Gambling venue (6) 17 English poet (6) 20 Brio (4) 22 Result (7) 24 Tossed item? (5)

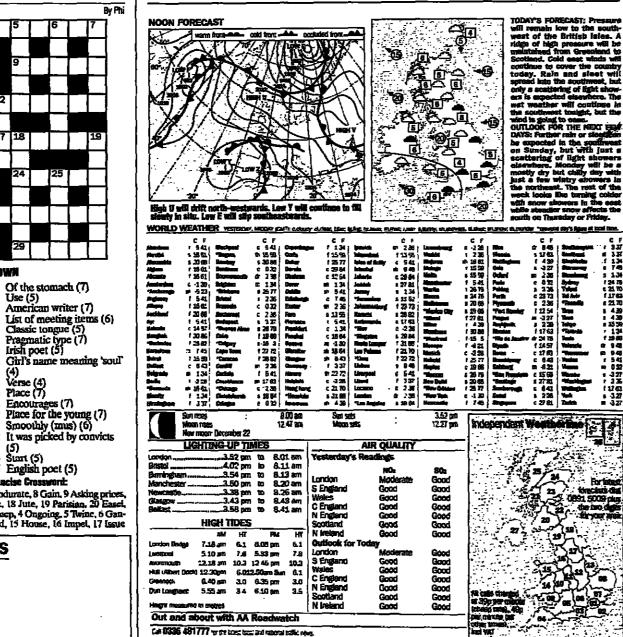
26 English poet (5)

16 Place (7) 18 Encourages (7) 19 Place for the young (7) 21 Smoothly (mus) (6) It was picked by convicts

Solution to yesterday's Cancise Crossword Across: 1 Cat, 3 Shout (Catch out), 7 Obdurate, 8 Gain, 9 Asking prices, 10 Peanut. 12 Raglan, 14 Shocking pink, 18 Jute, 19 Parisian, 20 Easei, 21 End. Down: 1 Cabbage, 2 Truck, 3 Sheep, 4 Ongoing, 5 Twine, 6 Gannet, 11 Nucleus, 12 Regard. 13 Awkward, 15 House, 16 Impet, 17 Issue

NOTES

weather





were found starving and in the most appalling condition. They were infested with lice and their neglected, overgrown hooves made walking extremely difficult. They had been kept with horses and had suffered deep and painful bite wounds on their backs. Their fear of humans was so

intense that one

These four donkeys

poor donkey threw himself on the ground, trembling with fright, when first examined by the vet.

We are now providing them with the care that they deserve. We have rescued over 6.700 donkeys but there are still donkeys in trouble who need our help. Please try to spare a little, this Christmas, to help us with our immense task of giving all our donkeys the food, love, care and attention

Our administration costs amount to just under 6p in the £1, so any help you can give will provide direct help to the donkeys.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM

Please send donations to: The Donkey Sanctuary, (Dept EIT3)

Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 ONU Enquiries to Dr E. D. Svendsen, M.B.E.

I enclose Cheque/Postal Order for £ Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss

Branson sues troubled US lottery company

DAVID USBORNE and CHRIS BLACKHURST

GTECH, the powerful American lottery company accused this week by Richard Branson of attempted bribery, has been ousted from three US states where it has been entangled in allegations of shady business

A spokesman for GTECH

manage lotteries in Kentucky, Maryland and Arizona, but vigorously denied that the losses were the consequence of the legal controversies.

He was speaking on the same day as Mr Branson announced he was sning GTECH for call-ing him a liar over his bribery claim. GTECH said it would defend the action.

In the US, GTECH, which confirmed yesterday that it had controls 26 of the 37 state lotfailed to retain contracts to teries, has never been found

guilty of illegal activity and insists that it has "never been the eral case investigating claims target or the subject of an FBI investigation". However, its multiple brushes with scandal have helped to fuel suspicions that it has used borderline tac-

In Kentucky, Guy Snowden, the company's joint head - and the man accused by Mr Branson of trying to bribe him - re-fused to testify to a grand jury, opting to take the Fifth Amend-

tics to buy influence.

that GTECH's former national salesman, David Smith, had defrauded his own company by channelling funds to a wellconnected former state offi-cial, Rogers Wells, and receiving kick-backs from Mr Wells.

GTECH said Mr Snowden took the Fifth because he did not have time to read the "literally thousands of documents" pertaining to the case before he

In Arizona, GTECH made headlines in 1993 when the then lottery director, Bruce Mayberry, claimed that he received a leg of rotting mutton in the post from Mr Smith at a time when he was trying to force GTECH to comply with costly contract provisions to upgrade its lottery terminals.

In Maryland, in 1991. GTECH was embarrassed after it emerged that it was using the

state's disgraced former governor, Marvin Mandel, to lobby for the state's lottery contract. In New Jersey, a virtual replay of the Kentucky case against Mr Smith, again involving side payments to figures

of influence and large kickbacks, is due to take place in a federal court next year. Following Mr Branson's al-legation, made on television and repeated in newspaper and ra-dio interviews, GTECH went on

the offensive, denouncing him as a liar, "Given the nature of of a colleague, John Jackson, he the accusations that they have levelled against me and their attack upon my integrity and given the importance of the issues that have been raised. I have had no other option than to issue a writ for defamation against GTECH," Mr Branson

said yesterday. The action will centre on the allegation that over lunch at Mr Branson's home in Sep-

tember 1993 and in the presence was offered a bribe by Mr Snowden to persuade him to pull out of the contest to run the National Lottery. It was time. said Mr Branson, for "all of the issues involved in this matter to be heard before the only public forum available, namely a judge and jury in the High Court where the question of GTECH's allegations and con-



Selbor





to be beside the seaside: The bracing climate of Skegness has many tourist attractions but the Viz calendar spoof (right) of its famous poster has upset the Town Council

Viz lands itself in a mess with its jibe at Skegness

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

The anarchic adult comic Viz may be sued for the first fime in its 16-year history - by Skegness Town Council. The men who created John-

spoof of the classic advert for Skegness depicting a jolly Skegness depicting a jony fisherman on the beach under the slogan: "Skegness Is So Bracing."

Viz's version depicts a beach covered in dog mess, dead fish, and broken glass alongside the language of the language of the language.

1996 Viz calendar and on the comic's Internet site dedicated to puncturing the pomposity of advertising agencies. "We as-sumed British Rail owned the copyright to the picture but we didn't think it infringed the copyright because the picture

tle-based comic, "Unfortunately Skegness Borough Council has issued a warning against our publisher ... for technical breach of copyright. They haven't claimed defamation which is a shame because then we could have gone to court and was very different," said Chris argued that Skegness is shit."

tures the "Bubbles" picture for Pears soap with a boy issuing bubbles from his bottom. allegedly by "Kenny Everett Millais, a member of the British Pre Raffle Ticket Movement". A spoof of the "Careless Talk Costs Lives" war series

is saying: "Now I shouldn't be telling you this, but the Normandy landings are on June 6th. My Sidney told me. He works at the War Office ...

A Skegness lawsuit would save 172's reputation, according to Mr Donald, "People always shows Hitler sitting under a hair ask. How often do you get

Hislop [editor of Private Eye]. said we got six law suits in a week. But we've never had one and its always been a bit disappointing telling people so.'

The nearest Viz came to being sued was two years ago when an office cleaner lobbed a full bin-bag out of a first-floor window and almost hit a cleaner from the office below. Alan Crawshaw, Skegness town clerk, said the council's legal department had written to the comic: "We expressed our disquiet at the use of the poster. A few million people come to Skegness every year and it is the fifth most popular resort.

Bracing breezes and ballroom dancing for free at Christmas

REBECCA FOWLER

Where else could you go ball-room dancing for free on Christmas day, buy seaside air in a can for 99p, arm wrestle with Popeye, and take a donkey ride along three miles of some of Britain's cleanest coastline? According to the locals Skegness is a king among towns.

Each year, three million visitors pour in from across Britain to taste the bracing breeze, visit the nation's first indoor theme park, peer at the seals in the anmal hospital, eat fish and chips on the pier and have their fortunes read by Madame Petu-

largest holiday resort, and has There are not many better

ulation balloons to between 80,000 and 120,000 in the summer when tourists flood into the

spend Christmas in "Skeggy". Ken Holland, the Mayor of Skegness, who was born in the town 70 years ago and was coxwain of the lifeboat for 20 years, insists its charms are irrefutable. "It's a lovely place with lovely people, and it's mostly family people who come," he said.

"We don't have the razzmatazz with scooter bikes and Hell's Angels. We used to ness is Britain's fifth have them, but not for years.

There are two architects of modern Skegness. The first was

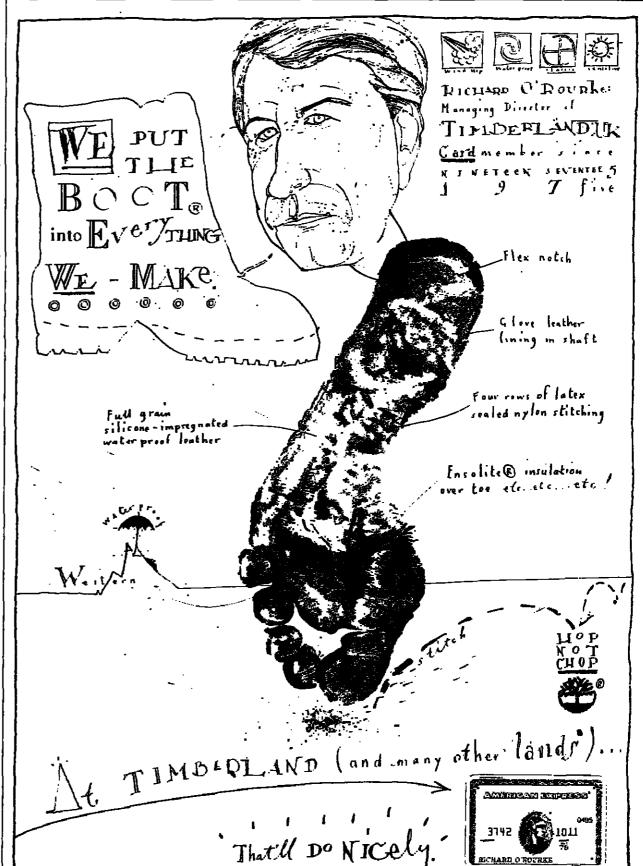
the Earl of Scarborough who 200 hotels and various caravan saw the town's potential as a parks. Another 10,000 visitors seaside resort in the 1870s, with the dawn of cheap railway travel. The town's mascot is still the Jolly Fisherman, dressed in a purple woolly and Sou west-er used in British Rail adverts from 1908.

The second was Billy Butlin, who chose Skegness to launch his first holiday camp in 1936 with the motto: "A week's holiday for a week's pay." It is now called Funcoast World and attracts 9,000 visitors a week. Even grey skies cannot dull "Skeggy". Fantasy Island, the

a tourism industry worth places than Skegness, and I've £25m indoor theme park, and £200m. The town's 17,000 pop-travelled all over the world." a grand example of its commitment to coping with bad

weather. Visitors are regularly heard rumbling out the chorus of "Down at the Old Bull and Bush" in the warmth of the local variety hall, and Cinderella is the indoor entertainment for the winter season this year. Among the most committed

champions of Skegness is Bob Suich, head of tourism. "One of by Viz is also the fact that Skegness has won all the awards for a clean coast this year," he said. "It's great, you get a family welcome, you get good food, you get everything you ever wanted."



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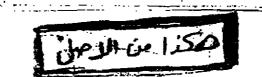


We don't understand why men can become ruthless butchers, but in the city of Bo, Medecins Sans Frontieres surgeons are dealing with some of the most horrific mutilations they've ever witnessed. Armed groups vying for control of the country's mining areas have found that maining works better than slaughtering when trying to "encourage" people to leave their homes. Survivors are telling us that more refugees are being blinded so they can't reach help. Bo used to have a population of 60,000. It's now home to 1/4 million displaced men, women and children. 10,000 new refugees emerge from the bush every month. Malnutrition is rife. This "poor man's

war" has only met with indifference and neglect from the international community. As a result, only very few people even know it is taking place. After all, how much are you reading about it in this paper? MSF works in the three cities with the largest refugee concentrations in the country. When the roads

were closed by the fighting earlier this year, we alone established an air supply route and opened feeding centres. When cholera and measles broke out, we brought them under control and launched vaccination programmes. And of course, we opened treatment facilities for those appalling injuries. But to sustain our single-handed effort, we need your support. 87p of every £1 donated will go straight out to the field, so please give generously.

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failing introd

Literary heritage under threat: Government survey finds children mainly read romances and horror stories Schools are 'failing to

introduce the classics'

JUDITH JUDD Education Editor

Children read few classics at school and their favourite leisure-time books are romances and horror stories, says a new government survey to be pub-lished next week. The findings will revive fears that Britain's literary heritage is in danger because schools are failing to

introduce pupils to great authors.
Only 6 of the 74 classes of 13year-olds and only 7 of 62 classes of 16-year-olds surveyed had studied any fiction written before 1900. However, they were reading a wide range of good modern fiction.

The survey of 84 schools in 10 local authorities from the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the Government's curriculum advisers, examined what children were reading at school and at home in one week in March this year. Teachers were also asked to list all the texts studied by their classes during the spring term. The study was done before the introduction of the revised national curriculum for English which aims to put more em-

phasis on classic literature.

Dr Nick Tate, the authority's tween what was happening in the classroom and the reading envisaged in the new curriculum. "I am not suggesting that children should read only Dickens. George Eliot, Keats and Shakespeare; a balance of reading is essential and it is perfectly reasonable to concentrate more on contemporary than earlier literature. However, the evidence of this survey suggests that we have shifted too far."

as rarely as the classics. For seven-year-olds, teachers used Roald Dahl and Janet

quently. At 11, it was Ted Hughes, by 13, Betsy Byars came top and by 16. Barry Hines and John Steinbeck. The survey also shows that children read less and less widely as they move up the school until, for 16-year-olds, "in-dividual reading had almost entirely given way to the reading of set examination texts".

At seven, pupils were reading a total of 137 authors but by the time they took GCSE the number had fallen to 27. "There was considerable reliance on the anthologies provided by the GCSE boards. Little wider reading, reading of pre-1900 fiction or texts from other cultures and traditions, took place in this term.

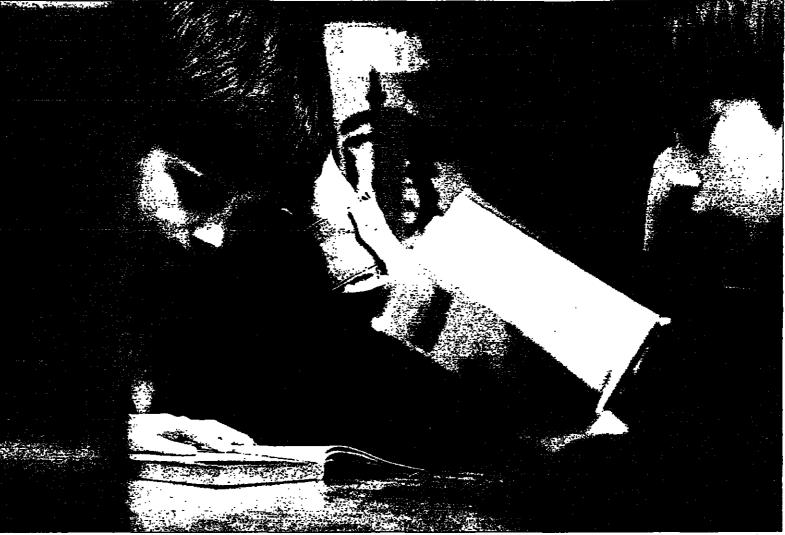
Thirteen-year-olds' reading in school is the most limited of all. And on their own, even the ablest in this age group read books based on films such as Jurassic Park or connected to CD-Roms.

It is not surprising, the report says, that seven-year-olds who are just beginning to read should be using modern fiction of all types but "it is surprising that they were not choosing or being introduced to the wide range of modern poetry and traditional stories available".

Teachers of 16-year-olds often chief executive, said he was had little idea which books their worried by the difference be pupils were reading outside class despite a national curriculum requirement that individual reading must be monitored. Anne Barnes, general secre-

tary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said: "If teenagers read at all, that is a good starting point. It is inappropriate for adults to . . . tell children what to read."

Most schools, she said, did read literature from the "canon" of great works and pupils should Modern poetry and books , not go through their school careers without reading some clasfrom other cultures were read sics.'-"but there are some teachers who have decided to apply the lowest common denom-



Adrian Mole guides boys into books

CLARE GARNER

Adrian Mole is a favourite at William Ellis School. All but one of the 12- and 13-year-old boys interviewed at the north London comprehensive yesterday had read Sue Townsend's diaries at least once – and the re-maining boy had seen the film.

"It's brilliant, it's just so funny. He's only a little bit older than us," they chorused. Darrel Stadlen, 13, added: "I had all four books in one volume and I read it all in a day because I liked it so much," he said.

Reading is not seen by the boys as a chore but a hobby on a par with watching television. The books they choose tend to relate to their interests and often to have been made into a film. In general, though, they

the smallest details like someone picking something up. When you read it you see the picture in your head. It's far bet-ter than a film." Wingyit Lung. 13. agreed. "In the Jurassic Park book they were ripping out parts of Dennis Nedri and that didn't happen in the film. There's more detail in a book

and I want that." Wingyit, who reckons to read for an bour each night, is challenging his cousin to see who can finish the Michael Crichton sequel The Last World first.

They have not yet started on classics like Dickens and Shakespeare. Adam Guy, 12, did not relish the prospect. "I wouldn't exactly like to read Romeo and Julier," he said. "At the moment I am reading an Agatha

flan Shaki, 12, said: "It's in where you get shown a murder but you've got to find out for yourself who's done it.' Teachers at William Ellis

School have devised a "Passport to the World of Literature' which includes a travelogue for journeys into various lands of literature. Michael Wheale, 45, the head teacher, explained: "At this stage the main thing is to get them reading more, expanding their vocabulary, and expressing themselves. The Passport supports the school reading policy to read different genres of books to make sure

the boys are widely read." Ilan is particularly welltravelled and like his friends. he raves about Nick Homby's Fever Pitch. "It's great if you are a football fan and go to football matches. You realise that everyChildren's favourite authors

Reading in class - examples of

Ronald Dahl, Dick King-Smith. Janet and Allan Ahlberg, Christopher Russell (read with BBCTV programme), Philippa

Eleven-year-olds Ted Hughes, Roald Dahl, Nina Bawden, Lynne Reid Banks, Thirteen-year-olds

Betsy Byars, Roald Dahl, Nina Bawden, Nigel Hinton, Robert Sixteen-vear-olds

Theresa Tomlinson's The Oakum Room (from a GCSE anthology), Barry Hines, John Steinbeck, William Golding, Harper Lee.

Individual reading - examples

of most_popular authors Roald Dahl, Dick King-Smith, Enid Blyton and books tied to films such as Jurassic Park and Nightmare Before Christmas.

Eleven-vear-olds Babysitter Club, Sweet Valley High, Roald Dahl and horror writers such as R L Stine and Thirteen-year-olds
Point Horror, Babysitter Club,
Sweet Valley High, Stephen King
and Danielle Steele with some

abler pupils reading Joanna Trollope and PD James. Sixteen-year-olds Jackie Collins, Jostein Gaarder (Sophie's World), Terry Pratchett, Virginia Woolf, John Grisham

Shops wish their customers a smelly Christmas

WILL BENNETT

Shopping will soon smell en-tirely different in Britain be-cause of new research which enables stores to choose the scent with which they want to entice customers and get them in the right mood to spend

The technology to deliver thousands of smells to order has been developed by the BOC Group, Britain's biggest manufacturer of industrial gases. It means that pubs can spruce up their image with an attractive aroma, and supermarkets can introduce the scent of baking bread, even though it is made nowhere near the premises

BOC's first big customer is Woolworths, where a whiff of cinnamon and a subtle hint of cloves will be in the air this Christmas, Woolworths does not sell alcohol but has decided to put a mulled-wine smell into the air-conditioning system. at its 20 biggest stores to get shoppers into a suitably mellow and festive mood.

Evelyn Shervington, BOC's business development manager. said: "We have been working on this for some years but it is in the last 12 months that we have developed the [necessary] innovative technology." BOC buys artificial smells

from fragrance manufacturers, who can offer them up to 17,000 different scents. The company then dissolves tiny quantities of the scents in liquid carbon dioxide, which is stored in ordinary gas cylinders. These are connected to the air-conditioning system and a timer controls release of the gas.

BOC is hoping to move into

the growing virtual reality busi-ness so that smells can be introduced to make computer games seem even more real. Smells are already used in some museums and historical displays. At the Yorvik Centre in York, which depicts Viking life in the area a thousand years ago, visitors smell every-thing from fresh fish to pig sties



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Legal setback unlikely to halt rail sell-off

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

Anti-rail privatisation campaigners yesterday won a partial victory in the Court of Appeal over rail cuts, but failed

Barring success in a lastminute application to the House of Lords on Monday by the winning bidders for the ting minimum service levels fully, but for the third, London,

be announced on Tuesday.

Yet the judges, in what Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, called "a very anxious and difficult case", ruled that there were serious errors in the way the franchise process had been conducted. In particular, Roger Salmon, the franchising direc-tor, had failed to comply with instructions from the Secrethe campaigners, the names of tary of State for Transport in set-

in the existing timetable.

In a confusing judgment, the three judges are allowing the franchise process to continue without delay. In considering the minimum service levels known as passenger service requirements (PSRs) - for the first three lines, the judges said that two of them - South West Trains and Great Western Trains - had been drawn up law-

Tilbury and Southend, Mr had been submitted too late, the speaking outside the courtroom, Salmon had wrongly set the LTS bid could proceed LTS and to 20,000 trains. However, the Salmon had wrongly set the levels of service too low.

He had also wrongly allowed too many potential cuts in agreements for the next four lines due to be privatised, Gatwick Express, Midland Main Line, Network SouthCentral and InterCity East Coast.

But because the judges ruled that the application to challenge the first three franchises, by the Save our Railways campaign,

Great Western have been won by management buy-out teams. while the third, South West Trains, is expected to go to Stagecoach, Britain's largest

The judgment was greated by Keith Bill of Save Our Railways as "a major blow against privatisation which will save 10,000 trains across the network", a fig-ure Mr Bill later increased, practical effect of the judgment is likely to be less significant than

the campaigners hope.

According to a senior City lawyer, "it is very unlikely that unsuccessful bidders will challenge the court's decision. They probably based their bids on the existing timetable anyway, which means they were not materially affected."

Mr Salmon will now have to

the judgment. He had previously argued that he wanted lower PSRs than in the existing

timetable as potential bidders would then ask for less subsidy than if they were forced to run services exactly as set out in the timetable. Now he will cither have to pay out more to the biddens or get the rules changed. His office said: "There are

work out how to comply with structions or we could appeal to the House of Lords."

Although preliminary bids for the group of four franchises were submitted last week, the full tenders are not expected until 18 March and by then new rules will have been set out. Mr Salmon is confident that he will not have to restart the whole process by drawing up new PSRs but clearly he will have to several options. The Transport be careful not to open himself Secretary could issue new in- up to further legal challenge.

Commission pursues Irish arms solution

DAVID MCKITTRICK

The international commission charged with the daunting task of resolving the long-running arms decommissioning dispute yesterday began its work in Belfast by meeting the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir

Patrick Mayhew. The commission's brief is to attempt to reconcile the posi-tions of the Government and the republican movement that is to say, to find some way of accommodating two conflicting stances: guns before talks, or talks before guns.

Given that many months of Anglo-Irish diplomacy have failed to resolve differences between London and Dublin, there is little confidence that the commission can come up with the type of formula which has so far eluded the governments.

The commission chairman, the former US Senator George Mitchell, admitted yesterday that success was "far from asprime minister Harri Holkeri:
"I am by no means [a] political
Father Christmas . . . The solution must be found in the minds of the people in Northern Ireland, but we are going to do our utmost to help them."

The third member of the commission, whose brief is to produce a report by mid-January, is the chief of the Canadian defence staff, General John de Chastelain.

Although the Government has said it considers itself under no obligation to accept any of their recommendations, the senjority of the three commissioners means that the report will carry considerable weight.

Mr Mitchell stressed yester-

day that they were approaching their task without any preconceived plan: "We want it clear-ly understood . . . that we enter the process with open minds and motivated solely by a desire to make a constructive contribution." No decisions would be sured". The same point was made, he said, until the com-

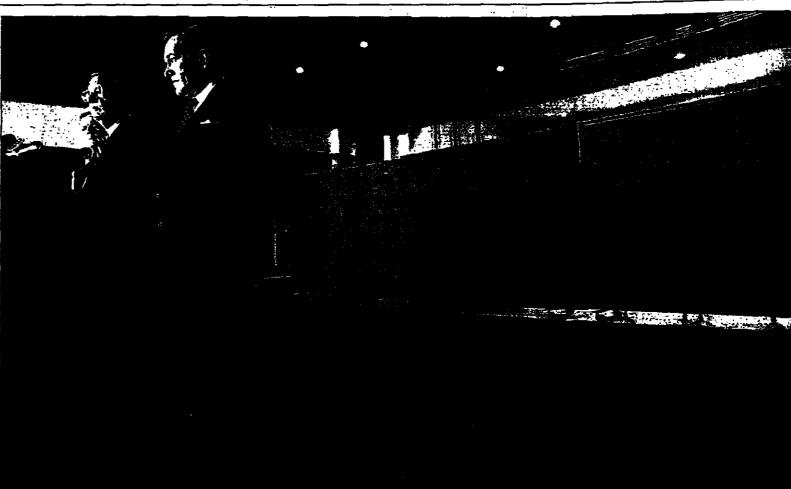
made by another commission member, the former Finnish prime minister Harri Holkeri: meeting representatives of po-litical parties in Belfast, and members of fringe loyalist par-ties, as well as the Irish government. All hearings are to be

held in private.

Sinn Fein is to give its submission in Dublin. Its president, Gerry Adams, yesterday re-peated his criticism that the British Government was being inflexible and unreasonable.

resents one part of a twin-track approach which includes movement towards full political talks. A target date of the beginning of February has been set for the opening of all-party talks; Sinn Fein's admission to these is contingent on reaching agreement on decommissioning.

An Irish government minister has meanwhile called for talks to take place between Gerry Adams and John Major. Proinsias de Rossa, leader of the Democratic Left, said that such



a meeting could help in "copper-fastening the peace". Shades of hope: Chairman George Mitchell, flanked by commissioners Gen John de Chastelain, left, and Harri Holkeri Photograph: Crispin Rodwell

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Coroner issues warning after boy's ecstasy death

Recording a verdict that and her boyfriend, Gareth Aaron Fairburst died through Charles, who were regular drug drug, John Pollard, the Crewe coroner, said: "All illicit drugs are horrendous. They are not to be played with lightly and the scourge of the relatively new drug ecstasy is particularly worrying ... I make a plea from the heart to all teenagers and anyone else tempted to use ecstasy or any other illicit drugs to bear in mind that you don't know where they were pre-pared or how well or Badly they

habit, backed the coroner's warning. Mrs Fairhurst told the inquest Mr Charles had bought the ecstasy tablets for their use and hidden them in their house in Northwich, Cheshire. She said that on the night of

25 May, she heard a noise from her son's room. When she and her boyfriend went to investigate they found Aaron was "soaking wet but very hot and had all the classic symptoms of

tion". He was taken to hospital in Crewe, where he died. Mrs Fairhurst and ther beyfriend later both admitted possessing cannabis and ecstasy and were placed on probation for six months by Northwich

■ A British international synchronised swimmer was jailed for two years yesterday for offering tablets for sale at a nightclub rave which she believed were ecstasy. In fact, Louise Skidmore, 22, from Bristol - national champion in 1988 - was selling pills which contained no controlled drug. Her codefendant at Plymouth Crown Court, Leona Nicholls, 23, was

also jailed for two years.

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Tories break with Saatchi & Saatchi

Mor cal

malert's

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

The Conservative Party yesterday announced that it was Saatchi after paying a reputed £500,000 to clear its debts with

the advertising agency. The break-up between the party and the high-flying agency started by the Saatchi brothers brings an era to an end. It began with the "Labour isn't Working" poster campaign, which helped to bring Margaret

Thatcher to power in 1979. The Tories stuck with Saatchi & Saatchi in spite of power struggles behind the scenes between Conservative Central Office and No 10 involving Lord Tebbit and Lord Young over

election campaign advertising.

A bitter boardroom battle for the agency later led to Maurice Saatchi's breaking away to found his own advertising company. It is likely that his agency will benefit from the decision to end the contract with Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, which was due to run through the next general election, though the contract could be

shared by several agencies. The move marks the last stage in the decisive reorganisation of Central Office by the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney. The contract for the general election will be worth millions of pounds, and he insisted on breaking the exclusive

account with the agency.
A statement by Dr Mawhin-ney and Jennifer Laing, Saatchi's chairman, said the parting was because of the change to "non-exclusivity" for the party's advertising advice. Dr Mawhin-ney is considering following Labour and the Republican Party in the US in creating a



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news

Ashby 'acted like Jekyll and Hyde in witness box'

The evidence to support the affair with Dr Claran Kilduff Mr contention that the Conservative MP David Ashby was

homosexual was "overwhelming", a High Court libel jury was told yesterday.

Richard Hartley QC, coursel for the Sunday Times, which is fighting the MP's action over allegations that he are not said the legations that he is gay, said the question of damages did not arise as the "sting" of the arti-cle, published in January 1994,

The MP for North West Leicestershire sat staring downwards as Mr Hartley described him as pompous and misguided in his decision to sue. As a witness, he was the worst combination of an MP and a barrister in that he was incapable of answering a simple question yes or

Mr Ashby was a "Jekyll and Hyde character" who would burst out crying one moment and be laughing the next. "Is there ever a man who blows so hot and cold as he does? ... Can you really believe one word he

Mr Ashby is claiming damages over the article which said that he shared a double bed with a man friend during a holiday in Goa at the end of 1993. Times Newspapers Ltd and the former Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil deny libel, although they accept Mr Ashby did not holiday with a man in Goa. They

The case continues on Monassert he was and is having an day when the judge will sum up.

Ashby, in seeking to show that his wife, Silvana, was not to be believed about her evidence that he had become a homosexual, had "systematically" set out to discredit her.

Geoffrey Shaw QC, for Mr Ashby, said that in judging the MP's appearance in the witness box, the jury should take proper account of the combined effect that stress, marital difficulties and illness, which was undiagnosed in 1992-93, would have on a previously confident and gregarious character.

The stress had increased since the Sunday Times article, which is why the jury saw both the politician in control of his interaction with other people and also the man weeping before the onslaught of his wife's allegations. It did not help to talk about Jekyli and Hyde - a literary character who was a criminal psychopath.

In an apparent reference to this week's Court of Appeal ruling that judges and counsel in libel cases can indicate to a jury the level of award they deem appropriate, Mr Shaw said he was not availing himself of his new liberty to suggest a figure. He went on: "I do say that if you find for Mr Ashby in this case, it will be your duty to award substantial damages in accordance with the need to vindicate him."

The case continues on Mon-



All the Queen's men: Senior officer cadets leading the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst yesterday

Photograph: John Voos

Doctor calls for 'drug alert' reform

A Canadian doctor who con-1.5 million women to change their Pill because of blood clof fears, yesterday renewed the at-

Professor Walter Spitzer, an expert on the "third generation" oral contraceptives at the cen-tre of a big health scare in Oc-tober, said that "much more care needs to be taken" when informing the public about the relative risk of various drugs.

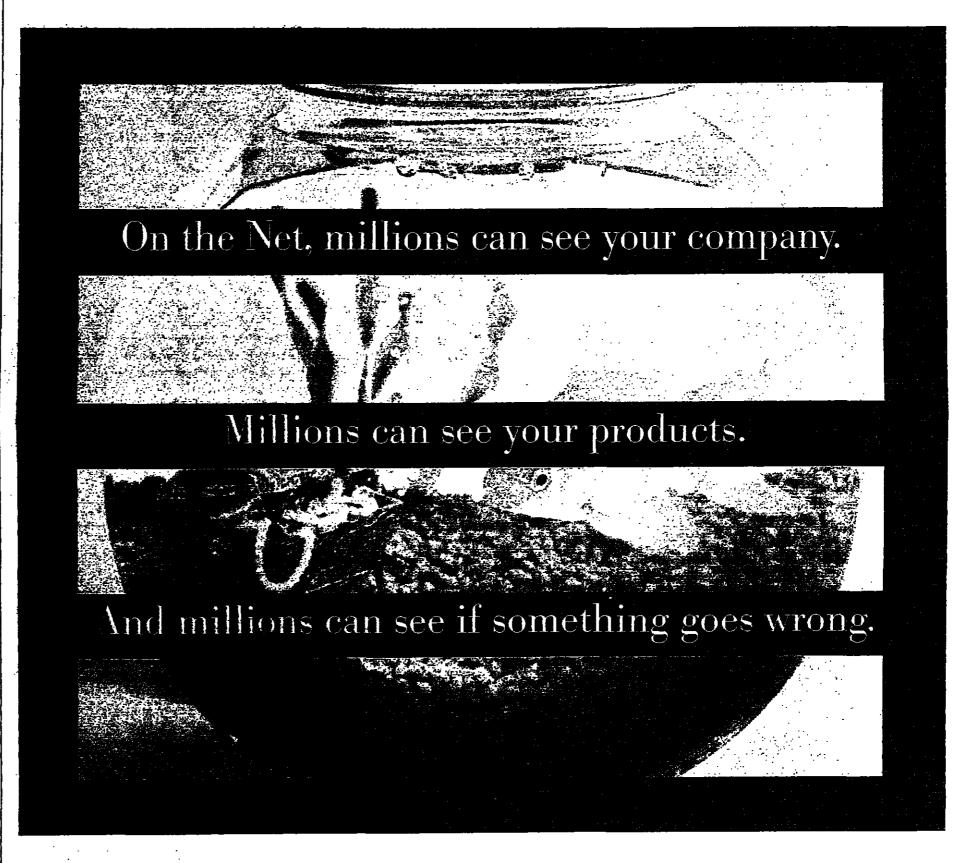
Professor Spitzer had accused the Government of "doing very great harm" when it issued a warning based on three unpublished studies which showed that women taking the newest Pills, containing syn-thetic progestogens, were twice

as likely to suffer a blood clot as women on older breads.

The risk was still half of that demned government advice to associated with pregnancy, but doctors were besieged with calls from auxious women although few had had any previous warn-

publication of some of the re search in today's issue of the Lancet, Professor Spitzer said: Much more care needs to be taken so that the practitioners who advise . . . patients . . . сап be fully briefed and have the full opportunity to study the issues

an onslaught of inquiries." The Lancer urges the Gov-ernment to review its alert system. Dr Richard Horden, editor, yesterday said the Pill alert was particularly badly handled.



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Solutions for a small planet

Health fears: Nine pupils are treated in hospital as 1,300 get injections and anti-biotics in biggest outbreak of killer disease



Mass vaccination at school after meningitis alert

More than 1,300 pupils and staff at a school in Durham were yesterday vaccines. terday vaccinated against meningitis and given antibi-otics following the largest sus-pected outbreak of the disease

Nine pupils aged between 12 and 16 at Shotton Hall Comprehensive, in Peterlee, are being treated in local hospitals for meningitis. The school closed early for the Christmas break on Wednesday after scores of parents kept their children away.

Two of the cases have been confirmed as meningococcal as poorly but stable and the othwaiting for test results on sev-

Dr Vivien Hollyoak, consul-tant in communicable disease control for the County Durham Health Commission, said the vaccination against meningitis strain C, which began at 9.30am yesterday, was "a precaution

The vaccination, which is still regarded as experimental, is used only in emergency situations. Protection in adults lasts only between three and five years and it is not very effective in younger children. About 90 per cent of people vaccinated develop antit odies against the

The National Meningitis Trust said that its helpline was being inundated with calls from worried parents, particularly from County Durham, Heri-fordshire, Lincolnshire and Oxfordshire, where there have been highly publicised cases in the past few weeks.

The latest death was that of Leanne Lester, a 15-year-old from Banbury, who died on Thursday morning after being taken ill on Monday night.

She was the second pupil from Banbury School to become infected. Doctors rang 16 hospitals across Britain in an attempt to find her a specialist paediatric bed, without suc-

Hospitals are under intense pressure because of a high number of flu cases, predomi-nantly among the elderly, and suspected meningitis cases

er as improving. Doctors are which are being referred by GPs as a precaution.

Leanne, who would have been 16 tomorrow, was put on a life-support machine at Horton General Hospital, in Ban-bury, on Tuesday, but her condition continued to deteri-orate. A 14-year-old fellow pupil is now recovering in

Despite the perception that meningitis cases are running at Public Health Laboratory Service says that there is no evidence of a real rise or of extravirulent bacterial strains this season. "There have been a number of clusters in a short space of time. But what we are probably seeing is the usual winter peak which occurs in January happening earlier this year," a spokeswoman said.

She added that the public and the media have been "sensitised" to the disease by the outbreak in Lincolnshire in November which resulted in a total of seven cases with five deaths. As a result, more individual cases and clusters of cases are being reported with increased frequency. GPs are also on the alert so that cases of suspected meningitis are running at 17 to 20 per cent

higher than last year. However, in the week ending 2 December, the service had laboratory confirmation of 1,151 cases of meningococcal meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia. In the same peri-od in 1994 the figure was 1,037; 1,164 in 1993; 1,194 in 1992; 1,305 in 1991 and 1,397 in 1990.

Teenagers hit by crossfire from shotgun

JASON BENNETTO

fire from a shotgun during the Brixton riots on Wednesday night and there were at least four other incidents involving firearms, it emerged yesterday.

The police are concerned about the use of guns during the incident, which appears to have been far greater than originally thought. Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said that officers involved in the riots had feared they were targets for gunmen.

While a heavy police presence in south London helped maintain order for a second day, detectives continued their in vestigations into what sparked the looting and street fighting. However, lawyers suggested that any attempts to charge Rudy Narayan - who called police "killers" shortly before the violence erapted - with incitement to riot was likely to fail. Sir Paul condemned "inflammatory" speeches made outside Brixton police station which he described as "unforgivable".

The Metropolitan Police are also attempting to get television footage taken of the disturbances to help them identify rioters. The BBC last night refused to hand over any film and the police are expected to seek a court order to force the corporation to supply it.

Meanwhile, a boy and a girl, both aged 16, were believed to have been caught in the cross-fire on Brixton Hill. They were treated in hospital for shotgun pellet wounds and were later

A 55-year-old man remained in a serious but stable condition after suffering a punctured lung, a fractured skull and stab wounds. He was attacked as he attempted to move his car. Scotland Yard said officers



Rudy Narayan: remained unrepentant after speech

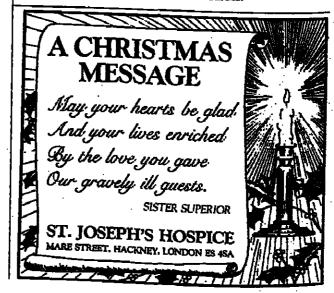
heard three shots fired at about 10.35pm near the Ritzy cinema. Shots were also thought to have fired at the George Canning pub Twenty-two people arrested were given police bail.

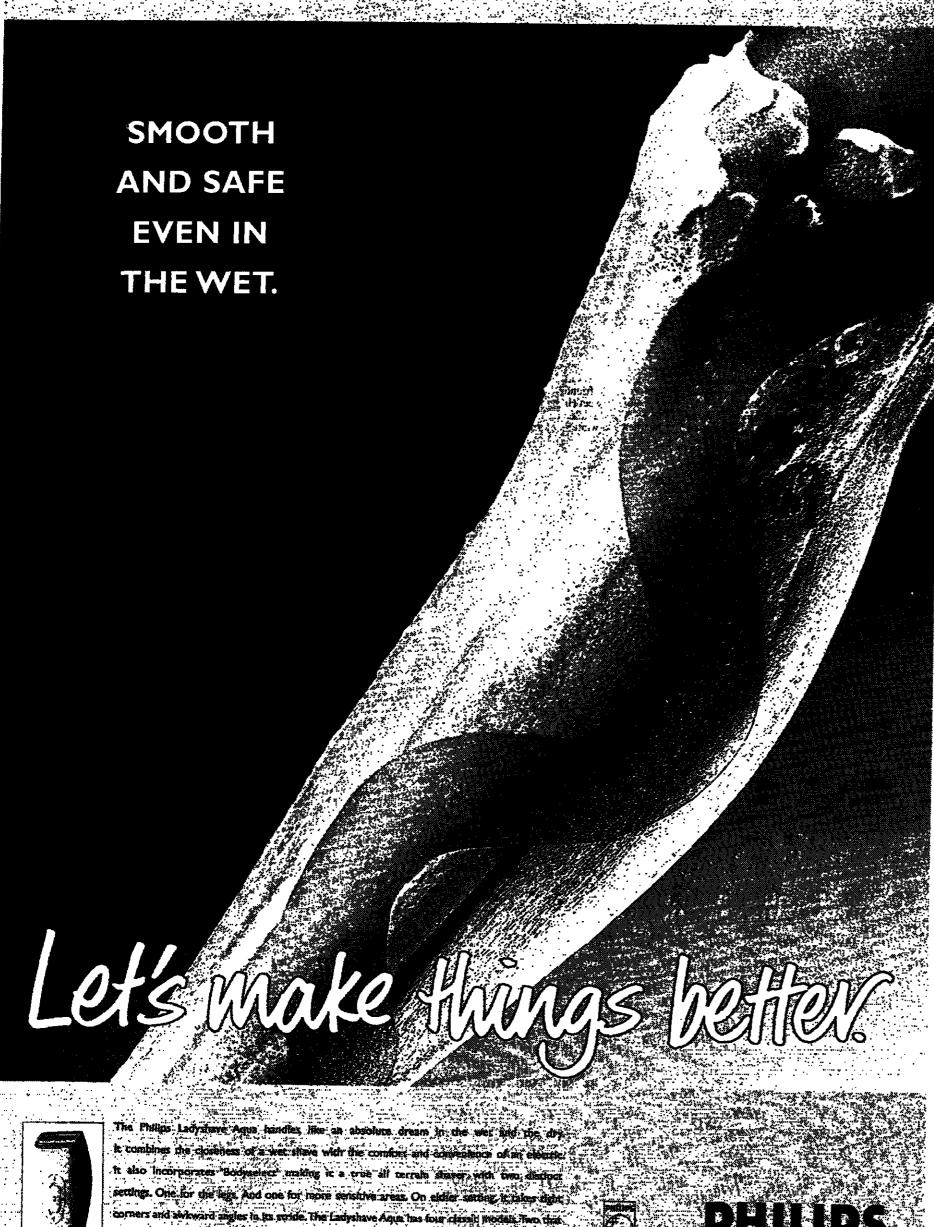
The police are gathering in

formation about speeches made outside Brixton police station by demonstrators protesting at the death in custody of a black man earlier this month, Mr Narayan, a seasoned campaigner, is at the centre of the inquiry, after describing police as killers and adding "they will not understand what they have done un-til one of them has been killed". A conviction for incitement

to riot carries a maximum life sentence. However, it is difficult to prove because the prosecution has to show a person intended people to riot or that they were so reckless that people were likely to run amok.

An unrepentant Mr Narayan sterday dismissed suggestions that he may be charged. He said: "I have been covering riots and criminal law for 25 years - this is just a smokescreen by the police to direct attention away from their true crimes of riot and murder."







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news

I after Ministers plant to scrap ties on modia control

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

The Broadcasting Bill, published yesterday, has gone further than many expected in liberalising media ownership

The measures are an attempt by the Government to catch up with the extraordinary changes that have revolutionised the industry, above all in digital and cable television, since the Broadcasting Act 1990.

This has been achieved by abolishing the rules preventing companies owning more than two ITV licences, by allowing newspapers to hold TTV licences, and by allowing ITV companies to buy newspapers.
The Government believes

the changes will facilitate the development of UK companies powerful enough to hold their own in the global media marketplace against international players such as Disney, Time Warner, Bertelsmann and Rupert Murdoch's News.

The bill also sets out a structure for the launch of digital TV - the high-definition transmission offering wide-screen pictures and CD-quality sound expected to replace the analogue system in 10 to 15 years.

The new rules provide for the licensing of an anticipated 18 digital channels. They also guarantee digital capacity to the BBC to cover all its present radio services - it started digital radio broadcast this year - and reserves space for the national commercial stations.

The Government has been warned repeatedly that digital "TV is a risky and expensive investment and the Bill sets out to encourage development by broadcasters using certain con-cessions. They include the Government's decision to ask for no cash for control of multiplex licences for the first 12 years and, in deference to industry requests, to allow the licences to be rolled over at the end of the licence period (subject to

satisfactory performance).

Each of the four terrestrial channels and Channel 5, due to start in January 1997, will get half a multiplex and can bid to operate the rest. The BBC's soonto-be privatised transmission network can also compete.

Licences will be awarded by the ITC on the basis of the time bidders propose for the roll-out of digital coverage, and on pro-gramming quality. Sony. Mo-torola, BSkyB are said to be interested in bidding.

Beatles head best album list

terrupt the run of classic Bea-

digital television are not ad-dressed in the bill. The Government plans to introduce a policy paper using the European Communities Act next year, naming Oftel as regulator. The Bill's key elements in-

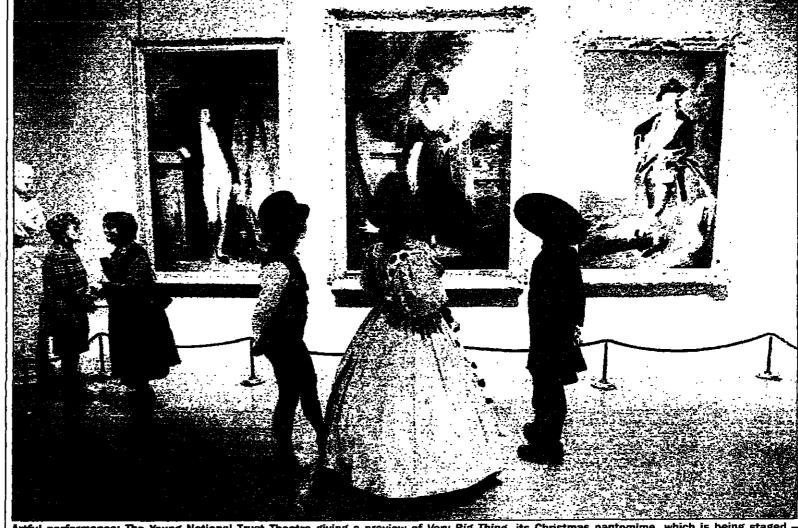
■ An ownership limit of two ITV licences changed to a maximum 15 per cent share of total terrestrial, satellite and cable audience.

■ Local newspapers with more than 20 per cent, but less than 50 per cent, of local newspaper circulation may acquire up to 50 per cent of local radio ownership points in their area. ■ Merger of the Broadcasting Standards Council and Broadcasting Complaints Commis-

Thannel 4's funding formula amended more in its favour, from 1998.

■ Abolishes rule preventing ITV companies, radio and local newspapers from owning caographical overlap. ■ Maintains rule preventing any

company having more than a 20 per cent stake in ITN. Classic FM, Virgin and Talk Radio can renew their analogue licences for a further eight years if they take up guar-Conditional access issues for anteed digital radio places.



Artful performance: The Young National Trust Theatre giving a preview of Very Big Thing, its Christmas pantomime, which is being staged – admission free – in the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery, in central London, on 19-22 and 27-30 December Photograph: Edward Sykes

Alderney relives end of wartime exile

BILL BROWN

More than 200 people gathered yesterday in the Channel Island of Alderney to celebrate the day 50 years ago when they began rebuilding their community from the ashes of a brutal Nazi

The 1,300 islanders had fled to England in June 1940, but less than 500 returned after the end of the Second World War. They found an island devastated by the Germans and grim reminders of the thousands of slave labourers who died fortifying the island.

Europe had been free for seven months when, 10 days before Christmas 1945, the Southem Railways ferry eased into Alderney harbour. Buster Hammond, 72, was among those on board who watched as ships flew

army: The Channel Islands were the only part of the UK to fall to the Germans Photograph: Hulton Deutsch

a 21-gun salute and the all-clear ise vesterday's celebrations. The Channel Islands were the

'It was the best day of my life. only part of the British Isles to A friend was playing 'Home be occupied by the Germans Sweet Home' on his trumpet as and Alderney was unique in that we sailed in. It was quite dark, all but a dozen of the populaa winter's morning, but it was tion left as the Nazis swept just sheer excitement," said Mr through Europe. on-shore guard of honour fired Hammond, who helped organ-

and families worked into the night burying the family silver and hiding valuables under floor boards. Pets were destroyed and farm animals let loose. A church bell called islanders

to the harbour on 23 June 1940. Avril Sebire was nearly left behind, "Grandad didn'i want to leave. My parents piled him into our car and when they arrived at the harbour mum said. Till take the baby now. I had been left sleeping in my cot in front of the farm blissfully unaware of my mother's distress," said Ms Se-bire, who flew from Australia with her two sisters. Jean and

Lynne, to attend the celebrations. Raiding parties from Guernsey and France took advantage of the exodus and ransacked homes, farms and pubs. Then the Germans arrived.

The excitement of reclaiming

enormity of the task ahead of them. Jean Sebire, then 14. said: "I had a fantastic time, but I remember my mother paddling through inches of water in a backroom kitchen crying her eyes out trying to cook.

A plague of fleas and rats were just two more inconveniences. Jackie Main was billeted in the Grand Hotel with many other islanders when they first returned. "You could hear the rats gnawing at the floor-boards. It was so bad that when we went to collect our hot water bottles we always went in a gang so we could scare the rats away." he said.

Yet, as with most of the young people, life was an enormous adventure for 10-year-old Jackie - it took the authorities six months to set up a school. "Life was smashin The evacuees were only their island home in 1945 was beautiful childhood, he said.

renaissance, the jury of our fans are mainly in the late tles albums - Revolver, Abbey If the last month's batch of tele-Road, The Beatles and Sgt Peptwenties and upwards, and votper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. ed for records built to last." vision programmes, releases and hype hadn't already proved it, a Three albums from Bob Dylan Other pop fans were less im-

JOHN McKIE

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magazine poli has confirmed the Beatles as makers of music fans' all-time favourite albums.

The rock music magazine Mojo polled 1,200 of its readand the Fab Four occupy four of the top six places, with their rison's Astral Weeks at No 5 in-ment about the current Britpop album."

and one from the Rolling Stones complete the Top 10. But the Top 100 represents bad news for fans of British bands such as Blur and Oasis. No ers for their favourite pop album British album from the 1990s

makes the Top 100. The poll is believed to be one 1966 classic Revolves topping the of the most extensive ever contop 100. Only the Californian ducted of music fans. Mojo's edsounds of the Beach Boys' Per itor, Mat Snow, said: "Even someone's absolute top Sounds at No 2 and Van Morthough there's a lot of excite-favourite because it's a strange

pressed with the results. "I remember reading the NME 1976

Book of Rock," said Paul Lester. features editor of Melody Maker, "and all the same albums in that book's poll are in this one. It's like the last 20 years of music never happened."
Paul McCartney said: "I'm surprised it [Revolver] would be

someone's absolute top

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French see a glimmer at end of the tunnel

MARY DEJEVSKY

France started to emerge from hibernation yesterday as isolated sections of the transport network creaked hesitantly into summit" gear after the three-week shutdown. The first high-speed train left Lille and by afternoon half railway lines were operating a limited service. The occasional bus could be seen amid the stillclogged cars and the sun shone

after almost a week of gloom. But if the mood on the streets had lightened and there was the first real hope of a return to nor- is a "jobs summit" on issues of mal life, the political conflict between the government and the such as job creation and cutting public sector was far from over. Even before the return to work was fully under way, more battles loomed, any one of which could damage the chances of

industrial peace.

The two big unions that have led the strikes, the Force Ouvrière and the CGT, confirmed plans for more national street demonstrations today to insist on total withdrawal of the government's plan for welfare reform. The incipient return to work already spreading, and the proximity of Christmas mean marches will probably be a gesture rather than a real threat to the government, but they still have potential to cause trouble.

The government is facing unexpected procedural difficulties getting its welfare-reform legislation through parliament, pended the restructuring plan their cashmere coa despite its 80-per-cent majorifor the railways - sacrificing in shoes, by surprise.

Juppé, may not be able to get the laws through by Christmas, as he had hoped.

The most immediate dispute has erupted over the "social - a round-table of ministers, trade-union and employers' representatives that was demanded by the unions as the Paris Métro and suburban part of any settlement. Mr Juppe's decision, announced last Sunday, to hold such a summit was regarded by unions as a key government concession. But they did not look carefully

enough at the small print. What Mr Juppé has offered lesser concern to the unions, working hours, rather than on welfare reform and pensions. The unions have realised in addition that the planned date -Thursday - is the penultimate working day before Christmas, leaving them little time to act if they do not like the outcome. Belatedly, they want the meeting brought forward and "broadened". Employers' or-ganisations may not even turn

up: they fear an unsatisfactory discussion could spread the public-sector disputes into the private sector, and want the whole thing called off. This dispute adds to doubts about what the public sector has won from the protests. Mr Juppe says he has abandoned plans for any changes in public-sec-

tor pension arrangements, sus-

ty; the Prime Minister, Alain the process the head of SNCF, Jean Bergougnoux, who resigned yesterday - and agreed to the contentious "summit". But what is to stop him bringing all the proposals back by a different route once they are back at work? On Thursday the Industry Minister, Franck Borotra, said the SNCF plan had not been abandoned.

So far as the transport strikes are concerned, however, the end is in sight. After three weeks of uncharacteristic restraint, drivers were sounding their horns again in Paris yesterday. But the strikes have left their mark.

Yesterday the Métro seemed to be in a time-warp. The walls were plastered with the same advertisements as three weeks ago, the dates of the promotions and special offers long since

Those who tried to push their familiar green tickets into the machines were thwarted, because they were switched off: travel was free. "The least they could do," muttered one woman, "after all we've been through.

Passengers, at first few and far between, sometimes cheered as the train came into view. In the carriages, it was apparent how three weeks of enforced walking has changed the city's elegant urban-dress codes. The resumption of the Métro had caught Parisians, still in the country jackets and trainers which had gradually replaced their cashmere coats and court



Fear of change drives Austrian voters back into cocoon

ADRIAN BRIDGE

animated debate.

Austrian elections: The far right is blaming east European immigrants for many of the country's ills

Last week Austrian shops were, for the first time ever, allowed Germany to do so. to open on the Catholic Maria In the end, in the classic Empfängnis (Immaculate Conception) holiday. Naturally such a bold step had not been taken without careful thought. For weeks prior to the holiday the media had been full of

The powerful Church and trade unions remained stead-fastly opposed to the shops tudes to change in Austria as it slowly pulls itself out of the postopening. Business leaders were staunchly for - pointing out that, confined for 40 years, and tries as Austria was now part of the European Union, any Austrians

flood across the borders to there is a realisation that, in look through a Viennese phone hundreds cheering Jörg Haider, neighbouring Italy and many cases, it is inevitable. neighbouring Italy

Austrian manner, a compromise was reached: shops were not obliged to open, but could if they wanted. Many did, subsequently reporting their best takings of the year.

The row over the holiday highlighted the conflicting attito re-connect with all the countries that surround it. It also Austria's entry to the EU at

the beginning of this year resulted in the lifting of trade barriers with its partners to the west, and marked the beginning of serious debate about whether to drop the long-standing neu-trality enforced on the country as the price for the departure of occupying Russian troops in

But the real catalyst for change was the collapse of the Iron Curtain six years ago and the sudden reopening of the borders with the countries to the wanting to go shopping on the showed that, while resistance to east, which were formerly part day in question would simply (and fear of) change is strong, of the old Habsburg empire. A

names such as Bradilovic and Simjanowski, underlines the strength of that legacy. But while the Austrian capital has long been ethnically mixed, the dramatic increase since 1989 of would-be immigrants from the east has further fanned the flames of anxiety.

As Ernst Neubau, a pensioner in the working class dis-trict of Favoriten, put it: "There are some parts of Vienna now where all you hear are foreign languages. Instead of allowing them in we should look after ourselves first.'

Mr Neubau was one of

right Freedom Party (FPO), at a rally in the final countdown to tomorrow's general election. And he liked what he heard. "Since the Iron Curtain came down, Austria has become a centre for international crime: drugdealers, car thieves, pimps and bandits," stormed Mr Haider, a man who once praised Hitler's "orderly" employment policies. "We demand an absolute, com-

plete stop to immigration." In addition to foreigners, Mr Haider's other main targets are the Social Democrats (SPO) and the People's Party (OVP). which, together or alone, have on power and the rewriting of was brought about after the could be more Austrian.

the end of the war, and which have built up an extraordinary system of patronage and privilege whereby the control of

schools and post offices are all determined along party lines. Mr Haider claims to represent the "little man", the losers from change, modernisation and competition from cheaper east European workers and the EU, and promises that, if he came to power, he would not betray their interests. Rather than less change, however, Mr Haider stands for more: a com-

banks, state industries and even

merging of the posts of chan-That is probably more change

than most Austrians like to contemplate and for those seeking a less radical departure, the OVP is promising comprehensive structural reform, particularly of the country's bloated budget, while retaining the best features of the old system. And for those not wanting any change at all, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, now into his tenth year of power and clearly looking past his prime, is running on a ticket of "no experiments".

Tomorrow's poll, which sion journalist put it: There is comes just 14 months after the certainly a mood for change: but plete break-up of the duopoly country's last general election,

the constitution to allow for the SPO and OVP fell out over how to reduce Austria's spiralling budget deficit. In many ways it represents a watershed: a clear signal that the old system of consensus has broken down, and that the old two-party system is on its last legs. It may even lead to a radical re-alignment, with the OVP switching coalition partners and inviting Mr Haider to join them in government. On the other hand, it may lead to the SPO and OVP once again reconciling their differences and carrying on in the same old tired but tried and tested ways.

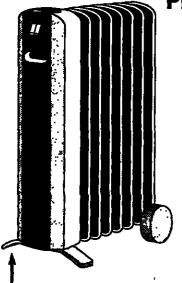
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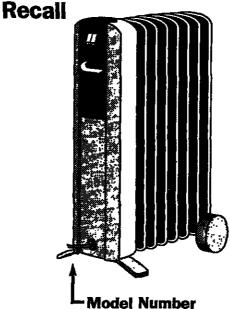
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Pilots were **'treated** brutally' by Serbs EMMA' DALY and agencies One of two French airmen shot down on a Nato bombing mis-

Sarajevo

sion over Bosnia in August and freed this week was quoted yesterday as saying they had been treated brutally at first af-ter ejecting from their plane.

Lieutenant José Souvignet said he and Captain Frédéric Chiffot had each broken a leg on landing in mountains near the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale. Unable to move, they had waited with their hands on their heads until a farmer with a hunting gun captured them.

Very soon, armed men in uniform arrived to take us away. We were first taken to a building when people telephoned to get orders." Lt Souvignet told the daily Est Republicain. Asked whether they had

been beaten before being tak-en to a dispensary in Pale, he said: "We can't talk about it too much but you can say ... that the welcome was brutal." They received rudimentary

treatment before being ques-tioned by the Bosnian Serb military commander, Ratko Madic. The seriousness of our injuries made it necessary to transfer us to a more appropriate hospital where we had to undergo surgery," Lt Souvi-gnet said. "That is where we saw General Mladic again. He was present during our operations, both mine and Captain Chif-

COCO0

They were transferred to another hospital the following night, taken a day later to a prison and then to another place where they were treated by doctors who changed thedressing on their wounds. They were later separated, which was the most difficult period psychologically, he said.

some questions, including one ica's star news-readers, whose about fictitious releases. The plane was supposed to arrive for long periods. Li Souvignet said they had been dressed only in hospital pyjamas ghout their imprisc Asked whether they had suf-fered from the cold, he said: "It

wasn't easy every day."

General Mladic personallyreleased the airmen on Wednesday, 104 days after they were captured, handing them over to the French armed forces

Meanwhile the US military, due to have deployed at least a small force of soldiers by Tuesday, is losing its first battle in raw and snowy winter, which yesterday took the form of a blanket of freezing fog cloaking Tuzla air base, has prevented the arrival not only of aircraft and the troops they are carrying, but even of a US media star dispatched to cover the story from

the cockpit. Sergeant Terry Pennington and his air traffic control team have installed a radar and navigation equipment on the runway (formerly home to thousands of Muslim refugees from Srebrenica). But the C-130 sent to check the instruments used for landings in bad weather has been unable to land because of the bad weather.

"It's been three days now the sergeant said. "All of the pi lots still have their safety rule ... we can't see the end of the runway." The occasional rum ble of a cargo plane excited the pack of journalists freezing in hope, but it merely circled overhead carrying a team from the US Federal Aviation Authority, who must certify the instruments as fit for use.

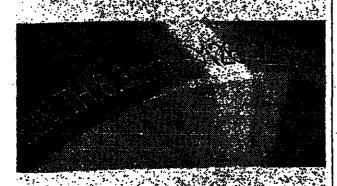
US Air Force officials say the weather will not hamper their operations. But even if the in struments are certified by the FAA, there is no guarantee planes can land in the bitter child. "Even with instruments it would still be touch and go," Sgt Pennington said. "There's no guarantee that the pilots could make this approach with this kind of weather." An Air Force spokesman, Col

Michael Perini, insisted the delay was inconsequential. "It's very early," he said. "We will meet the objective at this air base in a safe manner." Fur-Lt Souvignet said several thermore, despite the presence times that he could not answer of Tom Brokaw, one of Amerplane was supposed to arrive said they had been blindfolded malia-style invasion. "When the troops arrive they will arrive essional manner, they will walk off the aircraft at a de-

The Army also plans to send soldiers in with tanks across the Sava river border with Croatia. But with meteorologists forecasting more of the same, the question remains whether the **ÛS Army will have enough sol**diers in place when the Nato peace mission begins officially next week to offer more than a token presence.

Mercedos Benz Ibial Care

If price were no object, wouldn't you rather fit genuine Mercedes-Benz parts?



Recommended result priors for a whole range of genuine Mercades Benz para have been reduced. Particular aftertion has been paul to weet and tear hours like brake path discs. exhausts, starters, afternators, radiators and batteries - with the taggest savings on older. models such as W123 paid series and 190s. Gall your dealer for fixed prices.





Two Bosnian children may die before the New Year unless enough money can be raised to bring them to Britain for lifesaving cancer treatment.

With the proper medical help, the two children - who suffer from non-Hodgkins lymphoma - have an 80 per cent chance of survival. Without it. they will die, possibly within weeks.

The estimated cost of the two

children's 6-month treatment is £100,000. More than £30,000 has already been promised by the World Memorial Fund and Lions Clubs International (who have donated £203,000 overall to help Bosnian children). But the balance is needed urgently if the two children are to live. Lejla Ahmetstahic, 13, and Adnan Bratanovic, 7, are cur-

rently undergoing chemotherapy at Sarajevo's Koscvo hospital. There are no radiotherapy, no laboratory facilities and no isolation unit to guard against infection while their blood count is dangerously low.

Bosnian children "While they remain in Saranosed with lymphoma in Sepjevo we don't know what their chances of survival will be," said Dr Michael Plunkett of Child

> could happen in under 24 Lejla has spent most of her life in Gorazde, the last re-maining Muslim enclave in

eastern Bosnia. She was diag-

Advocacy, who is treating the children. "If they got a bad in-

fection they would just die. It

Your chance to help two

tember and evacuated to Sarajevo a month ago with her mother, Murisa. Child Advocacy Internation-

al is one of the four charities working in Bosnia which the Independent is asking its readers to support this Christmas. Piease make your cheques or postal orders payable to the charity of your choice and send them to us with the coupon.

À INDEBENDENT CHILDREN OF WAR APPEAL

I would like to make a donation to help children in Former Yugoslavia I enclose a cheque/postal order/CAV/CAF card for £ made

Child Advocacy International

British Red Cross Former Yugoslavia Appea

Please post your donation(s) to: The Independent Children of War Appeal

ADVERTISEMENT

APPEAL FOR THE CHILDREN OF BOSNIA

Could you send a better gift this Christmas?

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials - not the first things to spring to mind when you think about buying presents

this Christmas. But for mothers in Bosnia who have almost nothing left with which to care for their children, these basic essentials mean the world. And they can be found in each baby box sent with a donation in Britain to a despairing mother in Bosnia, via British charity Feed the Children.

power, a young mother sheltering in a tractor cabin in northwest Bosnia knows what the very personally." really important issue is tonight: how to keep her shivering and vulnerable toddler safe from disease and infection in appalling conditions and biting cold.

She has been living on the edge of life since October, when she was forced to flee her home in Velika Kladusa - with only five minutes to pack a carrier bag - and huddle with 22,000 other people along five kilometres of road in Klupjensko vallev.

She is one of 14,000 mothers in Bosnia and Croatia who have received haby boxes full of the basic essentials they need to help protect their children from the filthy conditions in which they are surviving: clean nappies and baby cream to soothe burning nappy rash, soap to wash urine-soaked babygros and dirty nappies, antiseptic for cuts, disinfectant for the muddy floors of their shekers...

Croatia have suffered enough. You can help them recover.

From me to you

and your child

protect her child.

"It's like a voice breaking

through the isolation and hopelessness surrounding these

mothers and children, saying

we know how hard it is for

s peace in Bosnia is trum- you, we care what happens to peted in the corridors of you." explains Gaynor Iones, Volunteer Co-ordinator at Feed the Children. "They take it So do the individuals who

take up Feed the Children's invitation to send a message along with their £30 donation.

"I wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box."

"Seeing those mothers in Bosnia on the television, clinging to their children for dear life in appalling conditions. I wanted to do more than send a donation," says Karin Weatherup, who has sent a baby box. "I wanted to send a message. I wanted to say to the mother opening the box. 'You're doing an amazing job, and my family think about you every night'. Feed the Children enabled me to do that, for which I'm very grateful."

Julie Griffin was drawn to the idea of sending a baby box to Bosnia for the same reason. "I just wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box. It was that personal involvement which really appealed to me."



Despite the Dayton peace initiative, mothers and young children in Bosnia trying to rebuild their lives need even the most basic essentials to succeed.



Christmas would mean so much to a Bosnian mother.

Does peace in Bosnia make a difference?

In many areas of Bosnia, peace simply means that the shooting has stopped. But the problem is that whole communities have been chased from their homes, and are either too afraid to return or will find only a scorched patch of earth or bombed-out shell where their home used to be.

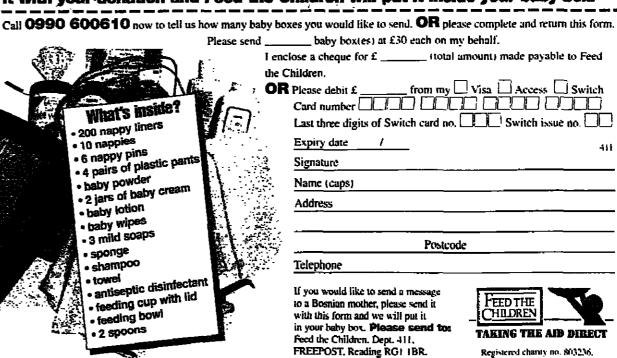
"There are many truly lost people," says Stewart Crocker, Deputy Director at Feed the Children. "We must ensure they are not forgotten amidst the news of the Dayton

initiative. Their needs are tremendous, especially those of the mothers and young children. They are trying to move forward, trying to rebuild their lives.

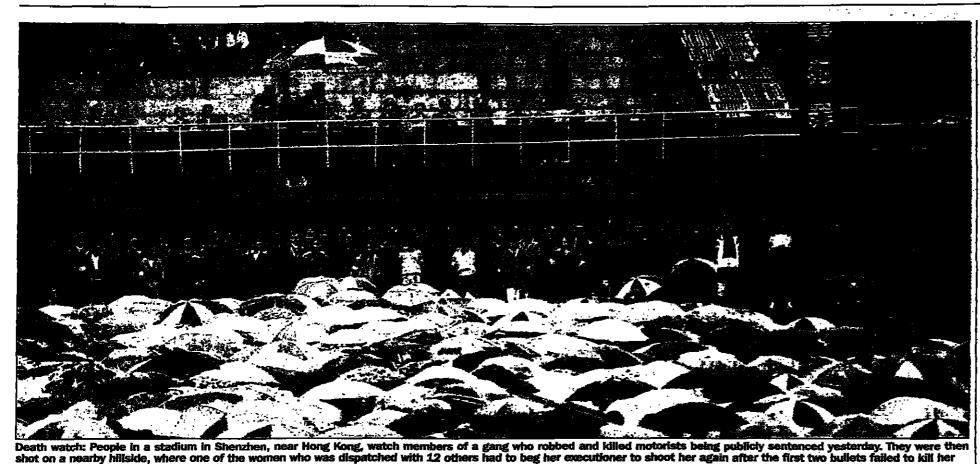
"People in Britain can take one major worry from these mothers by giving them what they need to care for their little ones - a Feed the Children



It costs £30 to send a baby box to a Bosnian mother and baby. If you would like to send one - or more, please call 0990 600610 or complete and return the coupon below. If you would also like to send a message to a Bosnian mother, please enclose it with your donation and Feed the Children will put it inside your baby box.



international



Crowds greet Arafat in Nablus

and SAFA HAERI Gaza

Yasser Arafat returned to Nablus yesterday for the first time since 1967 when Israel captured the city, the biggest on the the spot West Bank. Thousands of landed. Palestinians watched the PLO chairman land by helicopter beside Israeli military headquarters and cheered enthusiastically as he climbed onto its

roof to address them. Mr Arafat led the 15,000 Palestinians from Nablus and surrounding villages in chanting: "With our soul and blood we will redeem you, O Palestine."

The rebel Turkish Kurd guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan de-clared a unilateral ceasefire yes-

terday in his 11-year-old revolt,

saying he hoped Europe would put pressure on Turkey to agree

HUGH POPE

Palestinian soldiers with as-sault rifles - theoretically part was expected to deof the newly installed local police force – guarded the rooftops for snipers, scouring the wooded hillside overlooking the spot where Mr Arafat had

The mood of the crowd was hopeful rather than confident, as if they were uncertain the Israeli withdrawal would make a We are beginning to see results on the ground from Oslo, but nobody trusts the Israelis, "said Abdullah, a local Fatah leader. He added: "It will take 18 months for people here to know increased popular support in working in Israel.

Mr Ocalan, leader of the

(PKK), linked the ceasefire in

Turkey to his offer this week to

make peace with the Iraqi Kurds

of Massoud Barzani's Kurdistan

Democratic Party. Clashes be-

tween the two parties have es-

calated since Angust over

clare officially late yesterday that he will stand officially for the presidency of the new, 83member Palestinian self-rule council, which is to be elected оп 20 January. Nobody doubts that he will win and that an overwhelming majority of the coun-

Earlier, in an interview in Gaza with the Independent, Mr Arafat demonstrated confidence that the assassination on 4 November of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, had

"This is not a tactical move...

uing this war," the PKK leader

said in a programme broadcast from Brussels by the London-

based satellite television station

MED-TV. Mr Ocalan spoke in

Turkish by telephone, possibly

from one of his bases in Syria.

cil will come from his Fatah

Israel for the Oslo agreement. "It backfired on the fanatics, for at least 74 per cent of the Israelis now say they support the peace process," he said.

The West Bank is also more prosperous than Gaza, with its vast refugee population. Mr Arafat said: "All our infrastructure [in Gaza] has been completely destroyed during the occupation and we are start-

He may also draw hope from the fact that Simon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, is not as committed as was Mr Rabin to stopping Palestinians from

what policy the Turkish govern-

ment was to pursue toward the

Kurds following general elections

on 24 December. "I have good

intentions [but if the ceasefire

fails] I will turn a tourist paradise

into hell," he said.

Their exclusion has led to a sharp decline in living standards in the West Bank and Gaza. Mr Arafat said the future of the Israeli settlements would be

dealt with when final-status talks with Israel start next year. So far, not a single settler has been moved. At the Israeli settlement of Elon More, on a hilltop overlooking Nablus, residents said they were worried rather than frightened by Palestinian self-rule. Valentin, a recent Russian Jewish immigrant, guarding the entrance to the settlement, gestured with his sub-

entity within Turkey's borders.

dismissed this first serious ini-

tiative to stop the fighting since

a ceasefire in March-April 1993.

Turkish officials said they be-

lieved the PKK was losing its

war in both south-eastern

In Ankara, a senior official

what land is held by the Israelis down there and what is held by the Palestinians," he said.

Half-way down the hillside, below Elon More, enormous bulldozers were scraping a road through an olive grove that will allow the 2,000 settlers to travel to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv with-

out going past Nablus. The Israeli government has promised the 135,000 settlers on the West Bank they will all have bypass roads to avoid the towns under Palestinian control. Whatever Mr Arafat's hopes, machine gun towards the Elon More and the other set-sprawling suburbs of Nabhus in tlements look very permanent. Elon More and the other set-

Kurdish rebels call truce and seek talks with Turkey ing it could last until February lowed to stay in Iraq until he will not negotiate with terror-when it would become clear achieved a federal Kurdish ists. Mr Ocalan should just surrender," the official said. Mr Ocalan said a recent res-

olution in the European Parliament calling for Turkey, the PKK and Kurdish representatives to hold peace talks both legitimised the PKK and made the Parliament the ideal meeting

Clinton defies Senate to sue him over Whitewater

RUPERT CORNWELL

The tangled Whitewater affair moved into the constitutional arena yesterday as the White House defied an order to surrender documents to a Senate Committee - which promptly asked the Senate to authorise action to enforce the subpoens.

As the deadline passed, President Bill Clinton's spokesman Mike McCurry said the president had decided to "stand on principle" and not release notes of a meeting between White House aides and his private lawyer in November 1993, on grounds they were protected by attorney-client confidentiality.
Assuming the Senate agrees
next week to the demand of the

Whitewater Committee, a struggle in the courts will begin that could last six months or more. Almost certainly, the final word will lie with the Supreme Court, in the midst of a presidential election year.

For Mr Clinton, and his Republican tormentors on Capitol Hill, the stakes are high, as public attention turns again to the controversy over his business deals as Governor of Arkansas in the Eighties which have dogged his presidency from its outset. Despite its protestations to the contrary, the White House looks as if it is engaged in that supreme Washington transgression, a cover-up. But if nothing emerges, Republicans will be open to charges of wasting time and public money on a petty political vendetta.

For all the fuss, no one outside the immediate White House circle knows what the notes contain. Republicans dream of a "smoking gun" that would prove Administration meddling into the investiga-tion of the 1989 collapse of the Madison Guaranty Bank, owned by the former partner of the Clintons in the ill-fated Whitewater real estate venture

which led to the bank's demise. at a cost to taxpayers of \$60m But the White House insists the documents are a mere "popgun", of scant or no sig-nificance to a case about which the public cares little and understands less. If so, aides argue, the confrontation will not dent Mr Clinton's current approval ratings of over 50 per cent, among the highest since he

As Whitewater moved towards the courts, another deadline loomed to avert a second Government shutdown due to start today, failing a budget agreement between the Administration and Congress. With the current stop-gap



Mike McCurry: Notes of

spending authorisation expiring at midnight on Friday, both posals to produce a balanced budget within seven years. Mutual concessions and massaging of statistics have narrowed the gap, but differences remain.

Sweatin

The best bet is that after much pushing and shoving, marathon negotiations through-out the weekend will produce enough agreement for another temporary spending Bill by Monday, when the shutdown would come into full effect. At that point a final deal could be reached in January, paring back or that the Clintons knew far ment programmes, slashing more, than they have let on welfare, and perhaps containing about the dubious dealings a modest tax cut as well.

Mr Ocalan warned the Iraqi to talks on a political solution control of mountains south of The PKK leader gave no defito the Kurdish problem. the Türkish border. nite limit to the ceasefire, say-Kurds that his men should be al- Turkey and northern Iraq. "We point for such talks. Basket £29.99 Homebase would like to plant a few thoughts for Christmas.

Kurdistan Workers Party there is no meaning in contin-



Monday-Thursday 8am - 8pm · Friday 8am - 9pmt · Saturday 8am - 8pmt · Sunday 10am - 4pm



Today, four tickets for The Magic Flute

If you fancy a trip to the theatre, we would like to offer you the best seats in the house. All this week we have been giving you the chance to Win top class tickets to shows ranging from ballet to drama.
Today you could win four

top-price stalls tickets for the English National Opera's production of The Magic Flute. Mozart's magical pantomine cum allegory can be enjoyed as a simple fairytale or as a symbolic search for

Nicholas Hynter's produc-

and wit as his hit film The Then call and Tamino and Pamina are played by rising stars lan Bostridge and Janice Watson. The prizewinner's perfor-

mance takes place on Thursday 15 February. To be in with a chance of winning four stalls tickets simply an-

Who starred in the title role of Nicholas Hynter's film, The Madness Of King George?

and leave your answer, name, address and daytime telewill be chosen at random from all correct answers received after the closing date of midnight Monday 18 De-

Your call will last no longer than a minute. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and

Sorry, this competition is not open to readers in the Republic of Ireland. For further details of this show, please call the booking office on 0171 632 8300.

Russian elections: Worried leader tries to see off Communists as Chechnya deals another blow to his regime

Yeltsin warns on terror of the past

PHIL REEVES Moscow CARLOTTA GALL

A worried Boris Yeltsin made a last-minute effort last night to head off predicted Communist gains in tomorrow's Russian parliamentary elections. In a national television address to fellow Russians, he begged them not to allow the "forces of the past to come to power", but to preserve the nation's "fragile

Yet as he sought to claw back support from a disillu-



sioned public, Russia received another unpleasant reminder of his regime's disastrous war in Chechnya, where fighting continued for a second day and rebels took control of another

Looking relatively fit after his recent heart attack, Mr Yeltsin told viewers that some of the 43 parties fighting for seats in the State Duma, or lower house, harboured the "dangerous" desire to return to the past, but it would be a "tragic" mistake --a reference to the Communist Party which is predicted to come first, taking at least 15 per

I do not believe I have ever in-

terviewed anyone while we were

both naked, and I am certain I

have never done so in swelter-

ing heat while gently lashing my-

self with a small brush of birch

At the time it seemed like a

we reasoned, that the Russians

would pull the same trick as the

British at the last general elec-tion and, in interview after in-

terview, swear blind they would

vote against the government,

liamentary elections ap-

proached, was it not imperative,

no secrets, where they sweat out

their hangovers and stew over-

their money worries, their mar-

ital guilt, and all the other tan-

only to do the opposite?

ning nor strict regulation of prices can bring salvation," he said, "The economy never worked well on commands. It cannot be improved by a gen-eral's order. I am well aware of the scale of the problems ... but we are nevertheless moving to a quieter, normal and decent

Until last night the president, who is convalescing after heart trouble, has remained largely aloof from the election campaign. He did not specifically me any party, but made clear his support for the government-backed centrist party, Our Home Is Russia, led by the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, by intoning one of their slogans - calling for "stability and accord in our common home, Russia".

In an effort to shake many Russians out of what seems to be political torpor, he appealed to younger voters, amid fears that many will not vote. "You must not allow the country to be returned to the times when people were told how to dress, now to wear their hair and which songs to sing." And he appealed to the elderly, warning them against a return to the terror of the Soviet Union. His speech coincided with at-

tempts to curry up votes by the Kremlin, which will be alarmed by evidence that Our Home is lagging behind both the Communists and, in some areas, hard-line nationalists like Vladimir Zhirinovksy. Mr Zhrrinovsky, who appears to have made some late gains, ended his campaign with a tirade against the West: While you were chewing gum and eating Snickers bars, we were conquering space."

The government released figures showing that inflation this month was running at around



vare: As he drags water from a distant pump, Alexei Sergejevich knows the economy is a big issue in Russia's elections

more unconvincingly, the pres- cent threshold. idential envoy to Chechnya, Oleg Lobov, claimed that elec-

nomic reforms began. Rather was above the required 25 per

In Chechnya itself, where three days of voting began on month was running at around tions there were proceeding Thursday, this appeared to be fighting continued in the re-3 per cent, the lowest since eco- successfully, and that turnout far from the case. Chechen public's second largest city, Gu-

fighters, who have vowed to disrupt the poll, seized control of the town of Urus-Martan, 20 miles south of Grozny, and fighting continued in the re-

dermes, where at least 30 Russing to Russians on the scene.

ian soldiers have died, accord-As the landscape echoed with the din of tank shells and Grad

60, a government worker, with

a boxer's nose and a creweut.

was eating fish and drinking

vodka, with a heer chaser: "We

need a man like Stalin to help

us out of this dead-end, but I

don't see anyone like him. Gor-

Zhirinovsky [the extreme

plained that the army was not allowed to use its full force.

Korean 'war' jitters RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

West

catches

The Korean peninsula, the last potential Cold War flashpoini. is in a state of political confusion, and governments in Seoul. Tokyo, Peking and Washington are experiencing what a West-em diplomat called "heightened anxiety" about the region's se-curity over the winter.

Their concern comes when fears about the military ambitions of Communist North Korea should be easing. Yesterday in New York, Pyongyang finally signed a deal with the Kore-Peninsula Energy

Development Organisation (Kedo), a consortium including South Korea, Japan and the US. setting terms under which Kedo will supply two light-water reactors to replace North Korean graphite models capable of being used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

The signing brings near to a close an uneasy chapter in relations with Pyongyang which began in 1992 when the International Atomic Energy Agency drew attention to North Korea's potential nuclear programme. But as one threat recedes, new anxieties are emerging.

South Korean fighters scram bled vesterday to test the readiness of defences against Northern attack. Seoul holds such exercises monthly but yesterday the intelligence chief warned that the danger of conflict had been heightened by internal crisis in the North. Last week President Kim Young Sam, said many North Korean planes had moved near the border, putting them within six minutes' bombing range of Seoul. On Thursday, Chinese officials were quoted as saying they feared a North Korean attack on the South.



Then we will be strong." One of the keenest banva fans goes wrong, he retreats to the baths with his bodyguard and close friend, Alexander Korzhakov. Rumour has it that the Kremlin elite can tell who's in or out of favour by the order in

Yuri, a mustachioed man of "Are you spies?" he de-

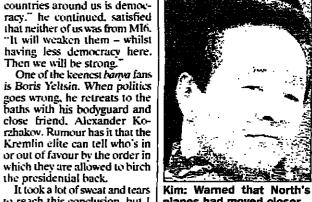
Some people apparently labour under the belief that the British security services will pretty well go to any lengths to

which they are allowed to birch

the presidential back.

to reach this conclusion, but I can now say this with confidence: if our visit to the baths is any guide, come Monday, Mr Yeltsin may well be seen heading for the nearest steam room.

Phil Reeves



planes had moved closer

However, troop movements are not unusual at this time of year, as the Northern army begins winter training, and Seoul has a vested interest in keeping its people on their toes. Such scare-stories are almost routine. The anxiety of foreign govern-ments – much less routine – is based on almost complete ignorance of Pyongyang's internal politics and the grim state of the North Korean economy.

Since the death of the "Great

Leader" Kim II Sung in June last year, the country has been without an officially acknowledged head of state. His son. Kim Jong II. is assumed to be in charge but his failure to as-sume the title of president has provoked speculation about a power struggle with the military. Since the end of the Cold War. weakening trade links with China and the former Soviet Union have further undermined an already weak economy; floods and poor harvests have caused widespread food shortages and malnutrition. Japanese defence officials have said they fear the possibility of North Korean aggression against the South in the late winter, when food stocks in parts of the country are likely to be close to exhaustion.

If the North launched an atack, it would probably be a limited one, designed to bring the US and South Korea to the negotiating table to face fresh demands for cash and aid. For both allies, it is a more than usudly nightmarish prospect. Seoul is embroiled in a political crisis which has led to the detention of two former presidents and which threatens to split the

JN mission to Bosnia.

Diplomats say there is no tangible reason for alarm, just a

IN BRIEF

Hope for Israel-Syria peace talks

Jerusalem - The US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher. arrived in Israel yesterday from Syria with "ideas and concepts" put forward by President Hafez al-Assad on how to restart Israeli-Syrian peace talks. Mr Christopher was not due to meet Israeli leaders until after the Jewish Sabbath but was scheduled to have talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat today. Remer

India dismisses N-test speculation

New Delki - India yesterday dismissed as speculation a US newspaper report that if might be preparing a nuclear test, but stopped short of making an outright denial. The New York Times said US intelligence experts suspected India was preparing its first test in two decades and Washington was working to discourage it. "It is a totally speculative kind of a report," a government

Red Cross suspends Burundi operation

Nairobi - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it had suspended all activities in Burundi yesterday after a wave of co-ordinated grenade attacks on aid agency offices. The attacks in the town of Gitega on Wednesday, 100 kms (60 miles) east of the capital, Bujumbura, damaged property at ICRC and other agency offices but did not injure anyone. They came hours after a Burundi state radio broadcast accused the ICRC of siding with Hutu rebels.

National Front members in death inquiry

Toulon - Police detained five people for questioning on Thursday over the death of a senior member of the far-right National Front (FN) party in Toulon, the biggest French town ruled by an FN mayor, police sources said. Five members of the Front's security service were held for questioning over the death in August of Jean-Claude Poulet Dachary, a deputy to Toulon mayor Jean-Marie Le Chevalier. They were released at the end of the day. Poulet Dachary was found dead on the stairs of his apartment block with a suspicious head injury.

German spy chief denies plutonium plot

Bonn - Bernd Schmidtbauer, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's intelligence chief, denied yesterday he had inside knowledge of a plan to smuggle plutonium into Germany despite growing evidence German agents were behind the ploy. Mr Schmidtbauer, who oversees the BND spy agency, released a 44-page dossier to prove he did nothing wrong when the BND seized 363 grams of ex-Soviel weapons-grade plutonium in Munich. But evidence has been mounting that the BND may have set up the seizureas as a sting operation to help justify its post-Cold War existence. Rewer

Steak and chips king of the French menu Paris - Forget nouvelle cuisine and cholesterol, say a majority of French who elected steak and chips as "king of French gastronomy" and ranked couscous among their top three favorites, a new survey says. A far cry from gournet delights and not far at all from an American diner's special, the "steack-frites" was the preferred dish of 71 per cent of the French. That was followed by 67 percent for gigot d'agneau, or lambchops, and 66 percent

lives? Was it not time for a trip males are to be found sitting to the banya?

Disrobing in the 100-year-old Chekhov's, is a little like stripping off in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral. If you are not overawed by the beautifully painted stucco work of the hallway or the ornate stone staircase, then you will be by the tall As tomorrow's Russian parante-room, clad entirely in dark carved wood and lit by stainedglass windows, where you prepare for the baths themselves. then, to seek the public's views in the one place where there are ...

The well-muscled men wearing tattoos and gold chains. are also fairly intimidating. These days the mafia are the cardinals of modern Russia. gled problems of their troubled Here, Moscow's wealthier

around in booths, wearing nothing but a sheet wrapped around their waists, like a toga. The and beer, eat lunch brought to

them on a trolley, order up a manicure in a nearby cubicle or watch the television at the end of the room. The uncleansed gingerly unveil and set off for the baths themselves, passing into a large tiled room to pick up their birch leaves, and on into the steam room itself. Thus it was that a colleague and I found ourselves standing

in intense heat, wearing nothing but a pair of rubber slippers. We had declined the offer of a small felt hat, much like a teacosy, which Russian males like

scalding heat. In a refreshing sign of Russia's embrace of capitalism, one slipper bore the Adidas logo, the other was emblazoned cheerfully with the

nalists to display nervous habits while interviewing strangers. We click our pens or doodle. waiting for a story to unfold. In the absence of either pen or notebook, the only socially acceptable apparatus at hand was the birch broom. Afteronades of the banva beat themselves with these during their steaming in the belief that this opens the

"What [thwack] do you think [thwack, thwack] will happen thwack, thwack, thwack) in the elections?" Thwack, thwack, thwack, thwack ... As the welts

to wear in the baths to protect rise, so does the heat. Ten mintheir hair from the near- utes is the maximum even the most dogged interrogator can stand before setting off, at headlong speed, to plunge into the green waters of the nearby swimming pool, surrounded by classical colonnades and over-

"I spit on the elections," said a young man, dripping with sweat. And he did. "It's all your fault. You should have come to our aid in 1918, then none of this would have happened." He spat again. "There no one worth voting for and it won't make any difference who I vote for anyway [spits]. Forty-three parties and no one to vote for! [spits] And what does it matter to you in the West. You can live there and write about us, but it is we who have to live through it

nationalist leader] - well, pfffff he waves his hand dismissivelvl." He planned to vote Communist. Back in the changing-room. about 35, had a question.

manded, seeing that - although still almost naked - we had our notebooks out.

winkle out information

Haiti elections: Rocky road may lie ahead for radical left-winger out of sympathy with Washington

Aristide's man heading for landslide win

PHIL DAVISON Port-au-Prince.

René Préval, a 51-year-old agronomist, bakery owner and former prime minister, is expected to be elected Haiti's next president to replace Jean-Bertrand Aristide in tomorrow's elections.

Using voodoo imagery and asy-to-understand symbols for his largely illiterate supporters, Mr Aristide formally endorsed Mr Préval, candidate of his



René Préval: questions over his loyalty to Aristide

Lavalas (Waterfall) coalition, in a speech yesterday for the first time. That ended weeks of ambiguous comments which had suggested a split between the two men, and the possibility that Mr Aristide would succumb to some of his supporters' demands to call off the elections and stay in power for three more

Using the Croole slogan President and planning to set up "Titid pou twazan" (Aristide a breakaway Lavalas faction for three years), they say he after taking office.

deserves to serve out the time he lost in exile between the September 1991 military coup and the September 1994 American military intervention, which restored him to power. "I myself will vote for the can-

didate of Bo Tab La [Round the Table], René Préval," he said to cheers while opening a new bridge in the southern town of Jacmel. The Lavalas party uses the image of a family sitting round a table as its symbol. At the end of low-key camigning, which has been large-

y financed by the US, opinion polls predicted Mr Préval would win 72 per cent of the votes, to only 7 per cent from his nearest challenger, although less than a third of the electorate may bother to turn out. Fiftyone per cent of total votes cast will be enough to avoid a twocandidate January run-off and install Mr Preval in the presidential palace on 7 February. Mr Aristide described Mr

Préval, his pre-coup prime minister, as his manasa, literally "twin" but also a popular voodoo loa (spirit) here. He appeared to be telling Lavalas supporters that voting for Mr Preval was the same as voting for Mr Aristide, who cannot run for a second consecutive term. but could run again in the year 2000. It was also seen as something of a "stay-in-line" warning to the candidate himself, who is believed by some observers to be at odds with the

Carrefour. Under the constitution, he is barred from running The possibility causes concern among US and other diplomats who fear Mr Préval is a more radical leftist than Mr even Aristide, the fiery former priest with whom few Washngton politicians felt comfortable, despite last year's

cy and return him to office. Mr Préval's staff have leaked the news that he would appoint Emmanuel "Manno" Charlemagne. a popular left-wing singer and now mayor of Portau-Prince, to head the key ministries of Interior and Defence.

and the 7 February hand-over go off peacefully. Mr Préval may face a rocky road ahead, notably in his relations with Washington during a US election year. Mr Aristide was highly crit-

Even if tomorrow's election

ical of the US in speeches this week, attacking Washington for holding back economic aid and refusing to hand over intelligence documents taken from the Haitian army and anti-Aristide militias during last year's intervention.

Mr Aristide believes the documents may reveal the extent of CIA activity against him before and during his rule. The US has said it will return the documents operation to restore democraafter deleting the names of any Americans. An article recently published in the American magazine The Nation claims the US secretly provided arms to the Haitian army and militias while publicly supporting Mr Aristide. and has continued to support the militias since his return to power. It suggests former officers of the now disbanded army and gunmen of the so-called

> out of US and other UN troops on 29 February. In remarks to foreign journalists on Thursday, Mr Aristide maintained the ambiguity that infuriates his US protectors.

FRAPH militia remain heavily

armed, threatening a return to

violence after a scheduled pull-

"If I want to stay here to morrow. I may create the contomorrow." he said.

Most well known politicians are boycotting tomorrow's elections, realising they have no chance against Mr Aristide's grassroots support. Victor Benoit. 54, leader of the National Congress of Democratic Movements (Conacom), is likely to finish a distant second among the 14 candidates, who include the Virgin Mary Party and the fundamentalist Party of

The candidate for the former. Dieuveuil Joseph, believes the Virgin talks and writes through him. Mr Joseph says she always sits beside him while he holds a dialogue with what appears to be an empty chair. His solution to Haiti's drastic poverty problem is to install cash machines throughout the country. although he has not said where the money will come from.

Vox populi: Aristide supporters holding portraits of the President during his visit to Photograph: Jon Levy Kim government. In Washington, the patience of the Republican Congress and the public in agreeing to overseas deployment of troops s already being tested by the

> lengthening list of uncertainties. ambiguities and doubts, "There are thousands of guys in this city paid a lot of money to spend their days worrying full-time about North Korea, said a Western diplomat. The truth is that we have very little concrete information. But if worrving is your job, then there's a lot more than usual to worry about at the moment."



Professor

Keith Runcorn

Keith Rancorn derived amuse-

those of us who prefer to work close to home." Runcorn was

once described as the "theo-

retical visiting professor of physics in Newcastle". But he

never stopped thinking about the physics of the Earth and

planets, and at most geophysical meetings he could be found

entertaining audiences with

his latest musings about the magnetism of the Moon, con-

vection in planetary interiors or

geomagnetic polarity reversals. Runcorn was for 32 years the

head of the Department of

Physics at Newcastle upon Tyne

University, until 1988 when, on reaching the official retire-ment age, he become attached

to Imperial College London. He

put Newcastle on the geophys-

ical map. Overseas scholars converged to research there or

to participate in wide-ranging Nato-sponsored international scientific discussion meetings

during which they could enjoy the magnificent scenery of

Northumberland as seen from

Hadrian's Wall, admire the

splendours of Durham Cathedral and York Minster, or sam-

pie Newcastle Brown in one of

the many pubs, often with Run-corn as indefatigable compan-ion and knowledgeable guide.

Runcorn was wedded to the

promotion of geophysics by al-

most incessant lecture tours, but

at no stage did he consider it

necessary to hand over the headship of the Physics De-

partment in Newcastle to one

of the patient and hard-

working members of his very

able staff, with whom he kept

Norman Potter

The designer Norman Potter liked to quote Rilke's command "Hold to the difficult", alternating it with the sombre maxim of his fellow poet and friend Denise Levertov: "We are living our whole lives in a state of emergency." His pres-ence was uplifting, even electrifying. He was a free spirit of great charm, wit and integrity, a Christian anarchist with deeply ingrained habits of dissent, whose thinking, like the layout and content of his typed lectures and letters, tended to be "ranged left and open-ended."

Potter's childhood was not an extended one. His background, gentility fallen on hard times, took him to a semi-charitable militaristic school. Aged 14 he turned to Rational Press Association books for comfort, taking in Joad and Huxley. Still in his teens, living in a commune, he read Herbert Read's Poetry and Anarchism, finding in Read a mentor he never ceased to admire and an intellectual home in anarchism. He thus come to know the scholarly, sophisticated circle of men and women associated with the journals War Commentary and Freedom - Mary Louise Berneri, John Hewetson, George Woodcock

and Vernon Richards. During the Second World War he spent a month in Chelmsford Prison (aged only 16) for refusing to carry an identity card. This was followed by six months in Wandsworth and Wormwood Scrubs, after an unsuccessful attempt to initiate a moral debate on the nature of war with a military tribunal. He found prison educative and thereafter saw himself as outside the class system, dutybound to question any kind of institution.

In solitary confinement for non-co-operation he scratched some lines by W.H. Auden into the plaster with a bent pin -"look shining / at new styles of architecture, a change of heart". These words proved prophetic. By 1949 Potter had begun his life as a designer, teaching himself skills, investigating hand and power tools and evolving a de- of Hugh Casson. Conscious

sign philosophy which took in that art schools provided "a use-figures from the Arts and Crafts ful education frequently ofmovement like C.R. Ashbee and W.R. Lethaby, together with younger members of what he saw as an intellectual family - Lewis Mumford, Herbert Read, E.F. Schumacher and Colin Ward.

Like his hero Lethaby he

loved sailing boats, lived on them in hard times, and regarded their interiors, when well fitted, as perfect design statements. He immersed himself in a study of the modern movement, visiting its key sites, starting with Wells Coates's Lawn Road flats, where he felt instantly at home. He was buoved up by his friendships with the typographer Anthony Froshaug, with Geoffrey Bocking and with a lively group of Architectural Association students editing the magazine

After secondary school Pot-

ter had no further formal edu-cation. Such a thing seemed hardly necessary. A spacious mind, a marvellous feel for accuracy and precision in language and a sense of the high seriousness of the designer's calling took Potter to the books, buildings and objects which he needed to know. All this provided the basis for his workshop which he ran in Corsham, Wiltshire, during the 1950s in part-nership with George Philip. This was intended to be as accessible as a local garage and of-fered undiluted modern design. Though interested in hand-work, Potter abhorred the craft furniture movement as it had developed since the 1920s; his own furniture and fittings, recorded with a Brownie box camera by his wife Caroline, were closest in spirit to the Dutch cabinetmaker and architect Gerrit Rietveld. In siting a modernist workshop in a small Somerset town, Potter created something that was in the best sense marginal and

quietly disruptive. At the end of the 1950s Potter went to teach in the Interior Design School at the Royal College of Art at the invitation

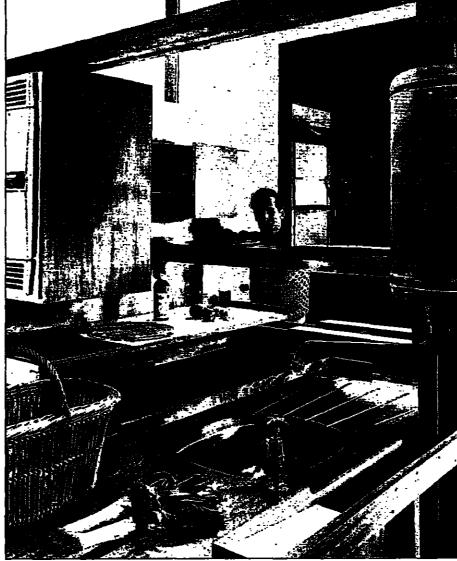
ful education frequently offered to the wrong people at the wrong age for the wrong rea-sons", he made his contribution there as "grimly undecorative as our subject-matter would allow", bringing in a "modernist monoculture and methodological underpinnings". There were Bauhaus precedents for Potter's pedagogic style. He demanded a whole-hearted commitment from students. Those able to take the heat and fire found themselves embarked on an invigorating, far-reaching, occasionally unsettling dialogue with their tutor. In 1964 Potter and a group of

like-minded designers and academics migrated to form a Construction School at the West of England School of Art and Design in Bristol, beginning what Potter described as "a long, long, struggle against the grain of English design education". The intention was to re-examine and re-address the modernist project. At Bristol Potter emerged as an indispensable (if dangerous) man to have in an institution, an asker of hard questions and an inspirer of youth.

In 1968 he largely abandoned teaching to join the disaffected students at Hornsey and Guildford. He resigned from Bristol, returning in 1975 to work out a radical nonhierarchical structure for the Construction School with students working in "families" and awarding their own degrees. Potter's last foray into teaching in 1989/90 at Plymouth School of Architecture took his ideas to their natural conclusion. He soon came to see the school as over restrictive and his so-called "counter-course" interventions eschewed assessments. His writing at that time had a real darkness at its philosophical core, as he encouraged students to face up to "extreme

post-war British art education were unable to accommodate a man with Potter's bold intellectual range, but out of his first

situations".



Quietly disruptive: Potter in a kitchen he designed for the architect Richard Penton, London, 1960s

work. What is a Designer first appeared in 1969 to much acclaim and was enlarged and repub-lished (in 1980 and 1989) by Robin Kinross's Hyphen Press. The book is an update of the early modern (and Arts and Crafts) project, which puts the workshop (and a moral sensibility) at the heart of the design process. It is an intense, practical book, a combination of

ents to face up to "extreme vision and good sense.

tuations". Potter's friendship with Kinross led to a close collaboration on an edition of his collected writing, which appeared in 1990 as Models & Constructs. This extraordinary book (designed on period at Bristol came a classic the purest modernist princi-

ples in collaboration with Kinross) contained snatches of autobiography, poetry, illuminating writing on music, to-gether with philosophical and practical thoughts on design, construction and the workshop.

Potter's horror of compromise in both public and private life did not make for material ease. Those who loved him and whom he loved were tested to their limits. Things were always difficult on a day-to-day basis, although his combination of practicality and vision meant that he could transform any interior into a modern movement statement of pellucid

beauty. This was dramatically

sure to achieve the equivalent

of a bye to the final. However,

unlike many who are at the peak

of their powers, he was not a se-

cretive craftsman. Through the

pages of photographic maga-

zines and through his work

ciety, he would encourage, cor-

rect, and above all inspire those

who showed promise in the

Perhaps the most appropri-

ate vehicle for a man with his

enthusiasm and sheer stamina

was the printing masterclass he ran every February for a dozen budding amateurs, at

the "Focus on Photography" ex-

hibition in Birmingham. Like a

black art of printing.

demonstrated by his flat in Falmouth (his final home) and a studio in France (intended as a permanent home, out of an England that from the 1980s held few charms for him). He left four children, the el-

dest, Sally, a film-maker, the youngest, Charlotte, still a schoolgirl. In their company the essential sweetness and hu-mour of his character became movingly manifest.

Tanya Harrot Norman Arthur Potter, designer, crafisman, writer and poet: born London 17 April 1923; married (two sons, two daughters); died Falmouth 22 November 1995.

tirely different practices and

techniques, and was named

Technician of the Year 1995 by

the British Picture Editors

moved closer and closer to

abandoning darkrooms alto-

gether, he recently left the Ex-

press and was working on a

bewildering range of projects. The first of these to bear fruit

was the book which will be pub-

lished next spring, entitled The

Black-and-White Photographic

Printing Workshop. It examines

40 of the most famous images

he printed and explains how

anyone could do it. As a book

aware that he is the best at what

he does, and yet willing to

Wallington, Surrey 7 December

it is reflective of the man

As the newspaper industry



distant parts of the world. He was born in Southport, Lancashire, in 1922, and attended the King George V Grammar School there before entering Gonville and Cajus College, Cambridge, in 1940 to study Engineering. After taking his degree, he joined the Radar Research and Development Establishment at Malvern, Worcestershire, where he remained until the end of the Second World War. In 1946 he moved to a junior academic post in the Physics Department at Man-chester University, spending his first year with a group working on cosmic rays before switching at the suggestion of P.M.S. Blackettt, his department head, to geophysics, the subject which became his

His allotted task was to dement from a remark by an termine how the Earth's mag-American friend to the effect, netic field varies with depth, The average speed of motion of geophysicists relative to the Earth's surface is about 60 miles per hour, and we rely on which involved carrying out magnetic measurements in deep coalmines in Kent, Lancashire and Yorkshire. The reyou, Keith, to make up for sults would provide a test of a new theory of the Earth's magnetism that Blackett had just proposed. By 1950, the theory had been disproved not only by the "mine experiment" but also by the results of a delicate laboratory experiment Blackett conducted, requiring the construction of a very sensitive magnetometer. This instrument later enabled groups headed by Blackett and Runcorn to make important advances in the field

of rock magnetism. In 1950 Runcorn returned to Cambridge, where he spent six years as Assistant Director of Research in the Department of Geodesy and Geophysics. His own personal research was crucially influenced in 1951 by new results on polarity reversals of the Earth's magnetic field that were emerging from stud-ies of the magnetism of Icelandic lava flows. In parallel with work already started by Blackett's group in Manchester, Runcorn orchestrated at Cambridge a vigorous programme of field and laboratory studies for determining the fossilised ancient directions of the Earth's magnetic field in sedimentary and igneous rocks from several parts of the world. This provided striking new evidence in favour of Aifred Wegener's celebrated but then controversial "conti-nental drift" hypothesis, leading in the 1960s to the introduction by others of the highly successful theory of plate

In 1956 Runcorn moved to a chair of physics at Durham University and headship of the Department of Physics at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne which later became the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Keith Runcorn celebrated his 73rd birthday in November, four months after his widowed mother attained the age of 100. Keen on physical fitness, he had played rugby until his midfifties, swam nearly every day,

and never gave up squash.
On 5 December he was found dead in a ransacked hotel room in San Diego, California, a city he knew well. En rouse to the 1995 fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco after a few months at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, where he held a visiting professorship, he was about to spend a few days in San Diego and Los Angeles with geophysicists of the University of California.

Raymond Hide

44

Stanley Keith Runcom, geophysicist: born Southport, Lancashire 19 November 1922; Fellow, Gonville and Caius Col-lege, Cambridge 1948-55; Assistant Director of Research in Geophysics, Cambridge Univer-sity 1950-55; Professor of Physics, Durham University 1956-63; Head of Department of Physics, Newcastle upon Tyne University 1956-88, Professor of Physics 1963-88; FRS 1965; Sydney Chapman Professor of Physical Science, University of Alaska 1988-95; Senior Research Fellow, Imperial College London 1989-95; died San Diego, California 5

Larry Bartlett

Like all Fleet Street printers, Larry Bartlett was little known outside the photography and darkroom world. However the images that he brought to life for so many photographers are among the best-known press tographs of the past 20

years. Most of his work was in black-and-white printing, where he would create an atmosphere that was almost tactile. The function of the photographic printer is to control the contrast and the density of the final print. Emphasis can be placed on certain elements of a scene by increasing their contrast with their background and reducing the importance of distracting elements by making them disappear into a sea of black or a haze of white. In Bartlett's darkroom, by means of cropping, exposure techniques and a few iricks, distracting detail would disappear, and the main subject seem to leap out of the paper.

The expert printer can also introduce new elements to a scene by sleight of hand. For ex-



ample, in his interpretation of the photographer John Downing's portrait of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, which appeared first in the Daily Express and has been frequently reproduced since, Bartlett created a beatific beam of light to brighten the careworn face, in contrast with



the brooding wide black borders

which were a characteristic of his work. Bartlett often spoke of his two-decade partnership with Downing and how the photographer would, in dry countries, stamp around in big boots to create brilliant dust motes for Bartlett later to turn into an atmospheric sheen in the

In the prestigious liford Printer of the Year Awards, Bartlett was all-conquering, winning the overall title three times, and receiving so many commendations that the sponsors lost count of his successes. Photographers entering their images in other competitions knew that a Bartlett print was

1873; Erskine Preston Caldwell, nov-

elist, 1903. Deaths: Simon Bolivar.

South American patriot, 1830; Kas-

cross between a orchestral conductor and a chess master play-

while advising and helping on individual problems. In his primary career as a newspaper darkroom worker, when the *Daily Express*, his employer for 20 years, was switching to colour work, Bartlett moved seamlessly into its en-

ing 12 simultaneous games, he share all his secrets to allow controlled the whole room others to follow. Larry Kenneth Bartlett, photographic printer: born London 30 December 1952; married 1973 Pat Tarrant (two sons); died

Joël Lucey

abiding passion. December 1995.

Ritual is like sex: it seldom works if you giggle. Halfway through the ceremonial opening of the General Synod last month I realised that the Queen had aban-doned the silly voice she uses for talking to the Commonwealth over the shortwave radio, and was sounding instead exactly like an old girlfriend of mine. If I had shut try eyes I could never have told the difference. It was a less imaginative response than that of the journalists who heard the Queen rebuking the Church of England; but it did shrink to a vanishing point the

solemnity of the occasion. There is a sense in which all liturgy is thama, and cannot succeed without a will-ing suspension of disbelief. I don't mean here just intellectual disbelief, though good liturgy can sweep that along, too, so that one can sing Christmas carols lustily while at the same time thinking their arguments atter tosh. But there is a sort of emotional disbelief which must be overcome before that stage is reached: a habit of idle, clichéd looking at the world which presumes that nothing is really worth

our serious attention. The language of ritual can be used to express surprisingly crude messages; in 1989, when Archbishop Runcie was last in Rome, he and his party were invited to a solemn mass and serial beatification in front of St Peter's. The great horseshoeshaped space was packed with pilgrims: cardinals and bishops formed a hollow scarlet square three deep in front of the Basilica, and the 16 members of the Archbishop's party, dressed largely in black, had a place of honour which made them stand out - in Raymond Chandler's phrase - like a tarantula on a slice of angel food. If each member of the party and all the watching journalists had been presented with engraved cards reading "Resistance is futile" the message could

and the control of th

faith preason male clergy. David Hope will be the first archbishop who has admitted that he is not heterosexual. Our presence of Value

The enthronement last week of Dr David Hope as Archbishop of York was a splendid occasion, says Andrew Brown, but the Church has lost the knack of

not have been plainer. I have always admired Lord Runcie's equally symbolic response: he said afterwards that as he watched Eve Keatley, his press secretary, entering St Peter's he had a vision of the first woman bishop entering that church.

Yet the skill of grand symbolic occasions seems to be in retreat in the Church of England at the moment; mostly for reasons which are beyond the Church's control. The enthronement of David Hope as 96th Archbishop of York last week is a case in point. It was gorgeously done. The costumes, the choreography and the music were all splendid. The sermon had sub-

Within the church, the Dean spoke 16th-century: he would "induct, install, enthrone and really invest you . . . with all rights, members, honours, privileges, prerogatives and pre-eminences whatsoever prayed: "O Lord, we beseech thee: let Thy continual pity cleanse and defend Thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without Thy succour, preserve it

ment in the Church's long tradition of gay

is to urge him to support his fellow gay

priests openly."
In his sermon, the Archbishop spoke management: "While there is much to celebrate in the Church, there is also a good deal of anxiety and uncertainty - a new synod; a new millennium, structures and finance, family life and human sexuality, management and ministry, when perhaps the old certainties seem not to be quite so certain as once they were, and where even our best efforts appear to elicit only a modest response.

This was not just a linguistic clash; still less a clash about sex. It was a failure of dramatic unity. The ceremony of enthronement speaks a dramatic lan-guage of the union of church and state, of the powers of this world with the purposes of the next. But no one hears the message any more. The problem is not that the Church is selling out to the world, but that it is now bargaining with the power-less. The oddest and saddest actor at the ceremony was a tall young man in uniform, who took a prominent, though silent, part in the procession. He is world-famous, but only because his wife ran off with an American businessman: it was the Duke of York. representing the Queen. He, like the city of York, is now part of the heritage industry, an actor in a public, televised dra-ma which has nothing to do with real power and where he has no veto on the

This is bad news for the monarchy, But the same is true for the Church, too, which needs a suspension of irreverence if it is to function. Now it is as if everyone in the world, hearing the Queen speak seriously, also heard an old love talking at

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

HEPBURN: James DFC, Jim to all his family and friends. On 15 December in Hampstead. For funeral arrangements, telephone Leverton & Sons 0171-586 4/21.

Annuancements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in widing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lendon E14 Stil., telephoned to 8171-293 2010.

Lectures

life", 3pm.

TODAY National Gallery: Rachel Barnes, "Gold (iv): attributed to Jacopo di Cione and workshop, The Coronation of the Virgin", 12pm. British Museum: George Hart,

Land of the Pharaohs: beyond the TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. Ghosts in the Gallery: pictorial mysteries", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Anne Harvey, "Noel Streatfeild: a writer's

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS BOYAL ENGAGESTIBENTS
The Date of Editheroph today attends a banch and
opens the West Stand of the rupby ground of Twickcentum, Middlessen, and weather the England v
Western Samon transh. Princern Manyares today
upont the Norwick Physheum and attends the Glob
opening Paciforniancie. in Norwick. The Dachson
of Kord, Patron, Lody surends the Caner Relief
Manuallan Fund, Carel Concore, Eton College.

Changing of the Guard CERARE The Household Cresity Mounted Rep-ment extent the Queen's Life Gazed at Heres Gazeth, Ham: F Company Scott Gazeth mouth the Queen's Guard, it Beatthquam Palese, ILIGER, band provided by the Coldstream Gazeth, TOMOEROW, The Isomatchid Creaty

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. D. Maughan and Miss C. A. Ayers

and shist CA Ayers

The engagement is announced between Cordelia, youngest daughter of Canon John and Mrs Jessica Ayers, of Middlehill, Box, Wiltshire, and Alasdair, younger son of Mrs Margery and the late Mr William Maughan, of Hartlepool.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Benny Andersson, singer, 49; Professor Sir Harold Bai-ley, Professor Emeritus of Sanskrit, Cambridge University, 96; Mr Michael Blackburn, chief executive, Halifax Bullding Society, 54; Mr Norman Blamey, painter, 81; Sir Michael Carlisle, chairman, Community Health Sheffield NHS Trust, 66: Mr Arthur C. Clarke, writer, 78: Mrs Myrella Cohen QC, circuit judge, 68; Professor Bernard Crick, biographer and Emerius Pro-fessor of Politics, London Universi-ty, 66; The Hon Peter Dickinson, author, 68; Miss Jacqueline Duncan, Head of the Inchbald Schools of Design and Fine Arts, 64; Mr Christopher Ellison, actor, 49; Mr Joel Garner, cricketer, 43; Mr Robert Gunn, former chairman of Boots, 70; Gunn, former chairman of Boots, 70; Mr Rony Hicks, rock guitarist, 50; Sir Jasper Hollom, former Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 78; Mrs Jacqui Lait MP, 49; Miss Stephanie Lawrence, singer, 42; Lord Margadale, former MP, 89; Lord Mottstone, Lord-Lieutenant and Governor of the let of Minh. and Governor of the Isle of Wight, 75; Sir Victor Pritchett, author and critic, 95; Lt-Gen Sir David Scott-Barrett, chairman, Army Cadet Force Association, 73; Mr Rodion Shehedrin, composer, 63; Mr Graham Stevenson, cricketer, 40; Miss Liv Ullmann, actress, 57; Mr William Whatley, former trade union official, 73; Li-Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Gen

eral Officer Comm

Northern Ireland, 54.

rector of Military Operations,

anding and Di-

TOMORROW: Mr Simon Bates, disc jockey, 48; Mr Peter Black-burn, chairman and chief executive, Nestle UK, 55; Dame Mary Cartwright, mathematician, 95; Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 50; Viscount Daventry, Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, 74; Lord de Villiers, of Warwickshire, 74; Lord de Villiers, barrister, 84; Lord Glenamara, for-mer government minister, 83; Mr Bri-an Hayes, radio presenter, 58; Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 51; The Hon Dominic Lawson, Editor, the Sunday Telegraph, 39; Lord McFadzean, for-mer choirean Polls Pourse 92; Mr mer chairman, Rolls Royce, 92; Mr Kerry Packer, chairman, Consoli-dated Press Holdings, 58; Sir Leonard Peach, chairman, Police Complaints Anthority, 63; Mr Robert Robinson, broadcaster and writer, 68; Mr David Smith, Headmaster, Bradford Grammar School, 61; Mr Tommy Steele, singer and actor, 59; Professor William Stewart, former Vice-Chancellor, Keele University, 80; Mr Cecil Walker MP, 71.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Catherine of Aragon, first queen of Henry VIII, 1485; Jane Austen, novelist, 1775; Sir Noël Pierce Coward, playwright, actor and composer, 1889, Deaths: Wilhelm Grimm, philologist and folklorist, 1859; Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns, composer, 1921; Alton Glenn Miller, dance band leader, lost on an air flight, 1944; William Som-erset Maugham, novelist, 1965. On this day: Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector, 1653; the "Boston Tea Party" took place, 1773; the Man-chester Ship Canal was completed. chester Ship Canal was completed, 1893; the first production of the mu-sical *Me and My Girl* took place in London, 1937. Taday is the Feast Day of St Adelaide, St Ado, St Albina, Saints Ananiah, Azariah & Mishael (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)

TOMORROW: Births: Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, baptised 1770; Sir Humphry Davy, chemist and inventor, 1778; Ford Madox Ford (Ford Hermann Hueffer), novelist,

par Hauser, the foundling "wild boy" of Nuremberg, 1833; Louis-Marie Alphonse Daudet, novelist, 1897; Dana Andrews (Carver Daniel Andrews), actor, 1992. On this day: Drake's ship *The Pelican* (afterwards called The Golden Hind) sailed out of Plymouth on a round-the-world ot rymound on a round-me-wornd voyage, 1577; the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, or ned, 1888; the first radio message was sent across the Atlantic, 1902; the Wright

morrow is the Feast Day of St Begga, St Luzarus, St Olympias, St Sturmi **Evangeline Bruce** A service of thanksgiving for the life of Evangeline Bruce will be held in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Aud-ley Street, London WI, at noon on

dnesday 20 December.

brothers made their first flight at Kit-ty Hawk, North Carolina, 1903. To-

Dinners

Royal Society of St George The Lord Mayor of London, Mr John Chaistrey, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Chaistrey, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the Christmas Banquet of the City of London Branch of the Royal Society of St George held yesterday evening at Mansion House, London EC4, Mr Nigel L. Blood, Chairman,

Royal Military

Academy Sandhurst General Sir John Wilsey respre sented the Oueen at the Sovereign's Parade held yesterday at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Ju-nior Under Officer LW. Addinell won the Sword of Honour. Junior Under Officer M.J.D.F. Gray won the Queen's Medal. Officer Cadet A. Samiento won the Overseas Cane.

A gorgeous failure of dramatic unity

ritual. The script didn't fit,

stance. But the script, somehow, didn't fit.

evermore by Thy help and goodness."

Outside, there were demonstrators speaking television: "This is a historic mo-

حكذا من الأصل

ofessor Runcorn

the saturday story

Whatever you put the presents under this year, it will symbolise everything from eternal life to market forces. By Peter Popham

When the fir traders spruce up their act

Not long ago, a Christmas of trees, which sprawl away old furrier's shop. "It's come tree meant a Norwegian across several neighbouring unstuck this year," he grumbles spruce: short needles, bright green colour, no appreciable scent, horrendous "needle drop". Buy it, hang it with tin-sel, take it down, stick it optimistically in the garden, watch it die - the ritual was well

But everything changes, even hoary old customs like this. Flashback to the Times of 27 November 1985: "New varieties of Christmas tree will provide alternatives to the ubiquitous Norway spruce within the next few years, a leading producer forecast yesterday." Fast forward to now, and lo, it has come to pass. The old tree ritual has in consequence gained several extra stages:

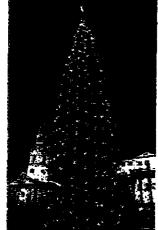
 Agonise over choice: spruce. Nordman blue, Douglas fir, Scots pine, Colorado fir, etc. 2) Agonise over whether to get one with roots exposed, one that has been potted or one that has been merely amputated. Try to imagine the tree's likely appearance once you get it home - it has been "sleeved for your convenience", so its shape is anybody's guess.

3) Invest further, to minimise the dreaded needle drop, in a Christmas Tree Stand (Homebase, £6.99) with giant four-pint enclosed water reservoir and four positive lock wedges to grip the tree securely

4) Ruminate, as needles stubbornly continue to strew carpet, presents, sleeping pets, etc. on how much better you artificial one. No needle drop; no agonising over why the celebration of Christmas should involve the taking of a tree's life. And you can use it over and

over again. As the north-easterly gales howl down Britain's high streets, this is the weekend when the Christmas tree industry goes into overdrive. Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane: in Stoke Newington Church Street in London's East End, the greengrocers practically disappear behind the clumps shopfronts.

Look closely and it appears that none of them are the familiar spruces. There is the "famous non-drop blue" with longer needles, the Douglas with soft, brush-like needles and piney scent, the Scots pine with longer needles still. All of these are dearer than a traditional tree: the Nordic blues are going for between £20 and £65, depending on size. "The spruces will be in next week," the dealer says. "We sell them



'Cruel? We replace every one cut down. It's like saying it's cruel to cut a cabbage

later because they cut them later - to delay needle drop as long as possible." So if it's a tree that is both cheap and traditional you want, the best advice is to wait. Next week, £10 will bny you a good spruce. Wait longer still - until Christmas Eve, say - and you will be able to pick one up for next to nothing.

Over in Islington's Chapel Market, John Rooney is at his usual patch outside Cohen's compared to the vigorous

mildly. "The Norwegians, Belgians and Germans have sent their trees over too early and priced too dear - couldn't sell them, and now they've come down in price and they're a drag on the market." As evidence, he cites the fact that trees are available this year not only from people like himself and shops such as Homebase but are also to be found for sale in garage forecourts, the corners of pubs, every-where. "It's £20 for any tree normally a Nordic blue would cost you £25 to £30. I'll get my money back this year, but I

won't earn any.' If Mr Rooney is right and the market is glutted, it's news to Sainsbury's Homebase. Some of their trees are selling for twice as much as he hopes to get. I watched as a Canadian paid £44.99 for an 8ft "Needlelast Cut Noble Fir - distinctive silvery blue foliage and layered branches", according to the label, which also gave the Latin name. "I like the wide spaces between the branches on the Noble fir," he explains. "It makes it easier to hang things

Highly competitive for price,

Mr Rooney has a fair amount of variety, too. But the Nordic non-drop is where he expects most of his sales. "Most people live in flats these days, and they don't like the mess you get needles falling," he explains. What about the handsome Scots pine, with its which is also alleged to be a good non-dropper? "Only old-fashioned people and nannies buy them," he says, rather mysteriously. "You can have

ioned and very poor people go for spruce," he says. I look again at his spruces, and it's true that there is something slightly poverty-stricken about them, with their thin, abbreviated needles, their weedy, pale, exposed branches,

one for a tenner." What about

the spruce? "Only old-fash-

They have an austere look about them, a whiff of rickets and Clem Atlee and powdered The way John Rooney sees it. the development of the Christmas tree market is a minor grow here. The only thing that will grow is the spruce, which nobody wants. I sell 50 Nordic

growth of the newer varieties.

"Utter and total nonsense!" snaps Tony Richardson, secretary of the British Christmas Tree Association (and, as it happens, of the European Christmas Tree Association, as well). "Your dealer doesn't have the slightest idea where his trees come from - these people are plain ignorant. I'm afraid. For example, no trees they had decided to avoid furin Britain come from Norway, ther heartache. They were

blues to one British tree."

with the single exception of the tree in Trafalgar Square. Fifty per cent of Nordman Danes). Of the 5.25 million trees we expect to sell this

retrograde to cut down a tree for Christmas, to end a tree's life as a way of celebrating the birth of Christ? This idea, which I admit had not occurred to me before, was proposed by a taxi driver. Each year, he said. he and his wife bought a live tree, swept up the needles. then later transplanted it to the garden, reluctant just to throw it away, reluctant to let it die. Each year, it failed to take, and withered, and died. This year.

the increasingly life-like artificial trees which will last for years. They are looking forward to a Christmas without The vehemence with which

Tony Richardson rejects this he has heard it before, and fears it. Already 30 per cent of trees bought in Britain are artificial. Hence the non-drop obsession, the water reservoirs. the potted options, "It's nonsense to say that it's sad to cut down a Christmas tree." he solutters. "They are grown as Christmas trees, they would never grow any bigger no matter how long you left them. Every time we cut one down. it's replaced. It's rubbish - it's like saying it's cruel to cut a cabbage.

He is also honest enough to admit that planting out after the holiday rarely succeeds. "If the roots are dried out when the tree is sold - as they usually are - the chances of survival are about 5 to 10 per cent. And the bigger the tree, the worse its

Richardson's association's members buy them from the Mr Richardson was also kind enough to correct my misconceptions about the origins of the Christmas tree. I thought it was introduced into this country by Prince Albert in 1840 (three years, incidentally, before the invention of the Christmas card). In fact, it was actually invented by an Englishman, a missionary named

it's only nine inches high" - the

size of the trees when Mr

John Rooney, in Chapel Market, Islington, recommends a Noble fir. What about spruce? 'Only old-fashioned and very poor people buy spruce,

Far left: Trafalgar Square Britain's only truly

Photographs: Dillon Bryden

Boniface, who in the eighth century, while proselytising among the Germans, was horworshipping trees sacred to the god Odin. rified to observe these pagans

With true Christian resourcefulness, Boniface persuaded them to worship a holy Christian tree instead, with a fairy on the top (much later vulgarised into an angel). So while Prince Albert did indeed help to implant the custom (and the Hanoverian kings before him), he was merely returning what was rightfully ours.

It is probably the venerabil-ity of the Christmas tree's pagan roots that accounts for its perennial popularity. As a symbol of the continuity of life through the dead of winter and by extension, of eternal life – evergreen trees were popular among the ancient Egyptians. the Hebrews and the Chinese. The Japanese still decorate the gates of their houses with a tree-shaped sprig of pine at

All the other images of Christmas – yule log. Santa Claus, candles, plum pudding, holly and the rest - defer to the primitive, magical imagery of the tree. Theologically, it means nothing, yet emotionally, for reasons we would find it difficult to explain, it means

Back in 1977, a Scottish headmaster named Ian MacDonald discovered this to his cost. As a "Wee Free" Presbyterian, Mr MacDonald regarded the English celebration of Christmas as a deplorable custom, and the tree in particular as a pagan symbol. When parents proposed putting one up in the school, he refused to allow it: when they put it up anyway, he removed it. Defiantly, the parents then put it up in an adjoining field. in full view of the school.

What did the parents imag-ine they were fighting for? The quintessential image of a British Christmas, they probably would have said. But if they had said an ancient symbol of eternal life, they would have been just as right.



Jo Brand's week

Sadly, for some unfortunates, the office party season is upon us and it appears that the male gender are far more optimistic about their chances of a spot of rumpy-pumpy than the female.

According to some research, 25 per cent of men are pretty certain they will have a fling at the office party, as opposed to 3 per cent of women. Dead hopeful aren't they, these blokes? Looks like there will be quite a few unhappy bunnies at the office this year. Either that, or the 3 per cent of hopeful women are going to be kept very busy.

Something about the consumption of daytime alcohol at Christmas results in an excess of nastiness in certain individuals as they continue drinking on into the evening. Well, this is what I presume happened to four people who came to see a show I was doing in north London this week. The quartet settled themselves at a table right at the front, intent upon ruining the show using a combination of load conversation, inane heckling and eventual ignition of a pile of paper in the ashtray on their table. Despite initially polite remoustrations from myself, moving on to fairly abusive comments from myself and the audience, the table from bell refused to behave like adults. So they were invited to leave by two security staff. However, given, I suppose, that it is the season of goodwill, one decided

she wasn't leaving without a ruck and I found myself on stage like a reluctant Harry Carpenter attempting to interpret the scene of flailing arms and breaking glasses. If you four are now sober and at one point were fans of mine, please don't be any more.

Despite millions of pounds apparently being pumped into it. Brixton burst into rioling again this week. It hardly seems any time since it all went off there before, when I was working in the area in a psychiatric emergency clinic. Several berks went down to Brixton at the time to "have a look" while those of us who didn't want to risk a brick in the mush stayed safely at work. Brixton is one of those names that strike fear into

the hearts of people from Surrey. It's not that bad, chaps. I remember a policeman telling me it was a long way down the list of well-dodgy areas crime-wise (somewhere in Glasgow came top). However, I wouldn't walk through Brixton at two o'clock in the morning. Then again, I wouldn't walk through Hampstead then either.



Lots of spots are dodgier

A lot of south London round where I live is economically and socially deprived and so it is always heartening to see a new business getting going or a shop opening in Camberwell's main street, which has always been lacking in the sort of upmarket shops you get north of the river. So I was very pleased today as I passed a smart new royal blue-fronted emporium with an air of class about it. That is, until I noticed some golden balls hanging up outside.

I waited at a friend's flat recently for the long-expected arrival of the man who was coming to fix the video recorder, which had been out of action for some weeks owing to a



mixture of bureaucracy and apathy on the part of the company. However, the repair man set about his task with great enthusiasm when he arrived. Having eventually put the whole caboodle back together again, he looked around for a tape to test in the recorder and I waved him vaguely in the direction of a pile of tapes under the telly. As the picture sprang into focus we were confronted with the rather unperving image of a bloke in a mask appearing to sodomise a scantily clad young man over a table. The film was Satyricon by Fellini, which is something of an art film, but for all the repair man knew could have been an under-thecounter purchase in Soho. I thought of trying to explain, but just ended up coughing a lot and saying: "It looks fine." The moral of the story: have Bambi ready next time.

Good to see loads more column inches devoted to what Princess Diana has been wearing this week. At least it keeps the boring old Bosnia peace treaty out of the tabloids. The tabloids did manage to squeeze in, however, the fact that our very own Mother Teresa got heckled at a dinner in the US. As someone who has had enough heckling to last me a lifetime. I wasn't particularly impressed with the heckle: "Where are your children?" - or the answer: "They're

If the royals are going to have to

face unsolicited comments from audiences, maybe I should just fill them in on a few alternatives rather than just coming back at the heckler with a factual statement, which I could never get away with. (For example, if I'd answered the surfeit of "You're fat!" heckles with "Yes I am," a quick exit would have been called for).

First of all, there are what are

considered to be communally owned heckle put-downs such as: "Never drink on an empty head," or: "Isn't it a shame when cousins marry." (One more likely to be heckled at the royals than used by them, perhaps). Most comics, however, try to have their own personal put-downs. For lads I find Where's your girlfriend? Outside grazing?" works well. However, the best comics are the ones who come up with a put-down suited to the moment. Had I been the princess I think I'd have gone for something like: "Not in America, so they haven't shot anyone today." Anti-American 1 grant you, but I can't help myself.





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ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2435

Let us eat, drink ... and let go of nanny's hand

In the past the Government kept us healthy. We were told when, where and what we could drink. Westminster's strict writ ran throughout the pubs of the land. Its word was gospel on what we should eat. Likewise no medicinal drug was consumed without Whitehall's imprimatur. There wasn't much argument. Nanny knew best: on matters of health the Government was authoritative and authoritarian. This was a comforting but confining world.

And then Britain started to grow up and tug at the constraints. We got fed up with killjoy licensing laws that were more puritanical than those of other nations in Europe. So they were relaxed. Alternative medicine thrived as people sought out their own cures among herbalists, aromatherapists and reflexologists who plied their unregulated wares beyond the doctor's surgery. No prescriptions were required. In a culture of complaint, consumers stopped just accepting what they were given: they demanded better and quicker NHS treatment. Meanwhile illegal drugs such as cannabis and Ecstasy grew popular, no matter how often they were officially condemned or what laws were passed against them.

Then this week we saw further signs of retreat by the nanny health state. Faced with scientific evidence that advice to the public on alcohol consumption pitched the recommended limits too low, Stephen Dorrell had a problem. Should be listen to nannying doctors, who would keep the happy news a secret? Or should he tell the truth and let people decide for themselves? Mr Dorrell made his choice. He rejected the old view that the public deserves only those truths that guide behaviour towards a desired end. He treated us like adults. Cheers, Mr Dorrell.

But in loosening its authoritarian hold on health, the state has got into unfamiliar difficulties. It has also lost its authority. Now we are encouraged to make up our own minds about health issues, we've turned into cynics. We don't trust Mr Dorrell when he says it's safe to drink more. Is he in cahoots with the brewers, we wonder? Was his announcement no more than a scam to top up Christmas drinking and boost

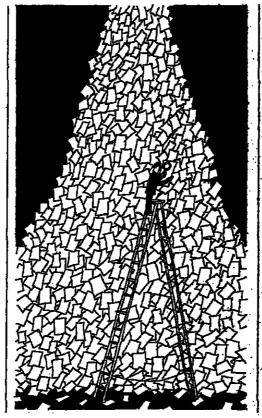
the Treasury's tax revenue? Was he, perhaps, trying to increase the feel-good factor?

As for his advice on eating beef, many people think that it stinks as badly as a month-old steak. Ministers speak with great certainty that there is no doubt about the safety of beef. They tell us that they are stuffing the faces of their children with hamburgers. But they may as well be trying to sell turkeys on New Year's Day: few

people are buying the message.

The suspicion, right or wrong, is that ministers are in the pocket of the livestock industry. Thousands of people are simply giving up on beef. Consumers know that scientific opinion is divided and some have decided that the risk, however minor, is not worth running.

Even when the state is absolutely honest and comes clean with up-to-date information, it ends up in a mess. The warning in October about the



increased dangers of thrombosis posed by seven brands of the Pill scared millions of women. They were told of the discovery, via the media, at a hastily arranged press conference. The evidence comprised three unpublished studies that family doctors, suddenly besieged by anxious women, had not seen. The extra danger was nothinge in comparison with some health risks: pregnant women still face twice the risk of thrombosis as someone on the condemned contraceptives. Panic reigned.

All of this is indicative of a wider truth: the Government is neither trusted in its health proneuncements nor particularly adept at getting is message across. Ministers can't win: they are attacked either for being silenced by powerful vested interests or for going in for unnecessary scaremongering. As the *Lancet*, a medical magazine, comments in this weekend's edition. health alerts are handled "more often badly and seldem perfectly".

So what should the Government do? It should continue to dismantle the nanny health State and replace it with the information state. This would establish the Government not as a source of health rules and prohibitions, but of data that people can genuinely trust as unsul-fied by lobbying interests. That way we could properly make up our own minds about what to eat, smoke and drink.

Greater openness should be combined with peater sensitivity. The Lancer's editor, Dr Richard Horden, struck the right tone yester-

day when he said: "One needs to disclose the information on which a decision has been made at exactly the same time as the clinical alert comes out. Otherwise one leaves doctors and patients completely in the dark."

The blame for health information failures

does not lie solely with the Government. The media also bear some responsibility. Over the past year newspapers and broadcasters have blown up the threat of sensational diseases such as the "killer bug" and of India's plague. In each case news of the infection consumed us for about a week and then disappeared without trace. There will be other such instances even in the coming weeks: the incidence of meningitis is already being reported feverishly even though more than 2,000 people contract (and 150 die of) the disease in any normal year. Likewise, the occasional flu death should not be over-reported, given that 3,000-4,000 people die of the illness even in non-epidemic years.

The media have some incentive for keeping these stories in proportion: a newspaper, for example, that gains the reputation for being absolutely accurate can expect to put on, rather than lose, sales. But competition can put enormous pressure on the truth.

It is for the Government to recognise the atmosphere into which it releases information and the short attention span of the media. Its aim should be to generate light as well as heat. We need less of the nanny, more of the sister

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Elected mayors: visible leaders or puppets on a string?

From Professor R. Hambleton Sir: Tony Blair is right to seek a full-scale "revival of local government" and he is also right to suggest that directly elected mayors could do much to strengthen local authority leadership ("Blair plan for elected city bosses", 12 December). The elected mayor can offer a platform for strong local leadership, for visible leadership, and for clear accountability - the buck stops here, not in some name-

Opponents argue that a "strong mayor" results in too tralised decision-making and much centralisation. However, this is not an argument against an elected mayor, rather, it suggests that there needs to be appropriate checks and balances.

helpful to UK local authorities as they rethink their approaches to city leadership and are now asking themselves community representation. But whether current models of deciimport ready-made solutions; 21st century. We need a period rather, we should be learning of bold innovation and experi-from local democracy around ment with local democracy. the world and adapting suc-cessful approaches to the UK situation.

Sale of knives

From Mr.Alan T. Bates

should be banned

Sir. The murder of brave head-

tences are needed to punish

the carrying of knives. Yet what

use will a higher maximum

vastly below the legal maxi-

mum or, worse still, the police

continue to caution knife-car-

rying teenagers?
As a 16-year-old student at a reputable public school, I was

saddened but not surprised to

hear of the recent murders. The

carrying of offensive knives by even young teenage males is now almost the norm, in my

experience, both as a symbol of strength and for "defence".

Some time ago I saw a boy West Sussex waving two opened flick-knives 11 December

go to New Zealand, where the last Labour government pushed through massive local government reforms in 1989. You will find elected mayors working closely and effectively with the locally elected councillors.

The challenge is to think West of England through and develop new roles Bristol for local councillors which can be introduced alongside bold leadership. This is where the many innovations in decenmanagement taking place in local authorities across the country can make such an councils have pioneered decen-Experience abroad can be tralised models which are envied abroad.

UK councillors and officers Strong local leadership must form a part of any programme for reversing the centralisation

around in a changing room before a physical education les-

son. He warned me of serious

consequences if I were to

report the matter, but I did so

anyway, expecting firm action

governors, teachers, police offi-

cers and the Government must

all realise the need to take a

and aggression.

Parliament must impose

minimum sentences for carry-

ing obviously offensive knives,

and the sale of such knives

should be banned. The police

should carry out more searches,

particularly of persons stopped

for other matters, and all those

who carry knives should be

Yours sincerely,

ALAN T. BATES

Crawley, West Sussex

master Philip Lawrence to be taken. The school notified ("Knife curbs to follow head's the local police who merely

killing", 11 December) and the stabbing to death of a super-harassment at school for sevmarket security guard demonstrate clearly that stronger sentences are needed to

penalty be if judges and mag-istrates already impose extremely lenient sentences tough stance against all acts of violence, bullying, intimidation and aggression.

To those councillors who fear the elected mayor will take over and they will have no role, I say inventive response. Yours faithfully, ROBIN HAMBLETON

Associate Dean (Research & Development) Faculty of the Built Environment University of the 13 December

From Professor Michael Chisholm

Sir. Before we get too excited about the idea of directly elected mayors as a means for revitalising local government, important contribution. UK remember that central government exercises direct and very tight control over more than 90 cent of each local authority's budget.

A mayor dancing to central government puppet strings will doing the same thing. To make sion while the steady centralilocal government more genuinely accountable to the local electorate, local authorities must have greater control over their finance. Three reforms

are needed. Reduce the proportion of local government funds derived from central government (currently about 80 per cent). Remove the capping of expenditure. And, third, remove the council tax from public expenditure as defined for control purposes. This is the necessary condition for the first two reforms.

Given the absolute control over local authority borrowing and capital expenditure that exists, there is no macroeconomic justification for the Treasury insisting on control-ling the level of council tax. The Audit Commission and other mechanisms exist to ensure that the tax is set at reasonable levels, and if these plus periodic elections are not enough, how about local referenda?

One could cynically say that the proposal for elected mayors sation of power continues. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL CHISHOLM

Cambridge

Refugees cast as criminals

From Fr Paul Walsh Sir: The last sentence in Ann Widdecombe's letter (13

tion to asylum-seekers in Britain struck me as catalordinarily significant: "Genime refugees have nothing to fear from our proposals."

In the first place, "genuine refugees" are those who are

found to be so by the Home Office. It is the same Home Office that decides which countries are "safe" to return asylupti-seekers to. Recent events in Nigeria and Algeria seem to suggest that the Home Office s judgement is not always to be relied upon. The fact that only 1 per cent of applicants from Nigeria are successful at their is the least successful in passing
Home Office rules - world sugfair treatment on the basis of

each individual case is operating. Further, it seems that the main driving force of the Government's argument in favour of stopping benefits to asylum-seekers is the presumption of fraud on the part of these people. In my experience of dealing

with asylum-seekers (mainly African) in the context of the French-speaking Catholic church in London, the ability of most of these people to give a satisfactory account of the legitimacy of their case on arriving in Britain is highly question-

able. Apart altogether from the disorientation, fear and sense of less attending the cir-cumstances of their leaving their own country, they arrive in a strange place, have no idea what is being said to them (even those who speak French, do so as their second or third business); and have to cone language); and have to cope, with the double shock of a new culture and a most unexpectedly suspicious reception. If, on top of this, they are presumed to be trying to cheat their way into Britain, I can only see one probable conclusion.

L and many members of our congregation, are appalled at the prospect of 12,000-13,000 people finding themselves with-1 per cent of applicants from out housing support and bene-Nigeria are successful in their fits on 8 January – a decision bid to stay in this country—the apparently taken on the prelargest source of asylum-seekers sumption of mass fraud; we are particularly appalled at the prospect of being part of a ing of a vote, so undermine the lives of so many vulnerable people who have absolutely no say themselves in what is being proposed. I appeal to Ms Widdecombe and to the Government to come and meet some of these people, listen to their stories, and then decide if so many of them are cheating the British taxpayer. Yours sincerely,

PAUL WALSH Notre Dame de France London, WC2 13 December

reviled. Surely a knighthood, at the very least, is called for.
After all, Conservative MPs

now get knighted for reason-

ably regular attendance at the

I seem to recall that John

Major asked members of the

public to suggest names for the honours list. I have today writ-

ten to him urging that Judge Tinnin be suitably rewarded for

his distinguished public service

and I hope that all your read-

ers who share my view will do

Judge deserves a knighthood

Sir: Polly Toynbee's article "Man enough for poisonous porridge" (13 December) makes very depressing reading. I sincerely hope that there is no truth in the rumour that Judge Tumim is to receive no honour

for his very distinguished service as our hispector of Pritons.

I cannot think of any other public servant who has been so universally admired: he has been lauded almost as often as the Home Secretary has then.

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM DON

Christians unite | Passengers vote with their feet

From Mr Graham Allen, MP Sir: Your article on the Trans porf Select Committee's report on bus deregulation ("MPs voice support for 'Ofbus'", 14 dents, comments on the findings of a survey among local properties of a survey among local properties. The survey among local properties of the most favoured light falled experiment, but it is also in the most favoured light falled experiment, but it is also in the most favoured light falled experiment, but it is also important to note that despite all the predatory practices amed at securing passengers prised and shocked. I have during peak hours ahead of never heard anything light it competitors the number of passengers using local buses has actually fallen by 22 per cent. This surprise. Does he not know that on a significant manufer of their feet in this way it must be

their feet in this way it must be a clear sign to the Government that deregulation does not offer them what they want. Labour will be looking at other options over the coming months in co-operation with the industry including network and route franchising and the use of new

Graham Allen

quality.
Yours sincerely, MP for Nottingham North

DAVID AARONOVITCH

Hard to swallow

Tam told by mutual friends not escape so easily. Beef turns out to be everywhere; including an avid reader of this column. I am not surprised - she is a fellow Cancerian, with a taste in tall, elegant, rich men. Plus we I am bulimic, except that after going on an eating binge I

manage to hold it all in. But this control is now threatened. For all this week my gorge has been rising as claim and counterclaim about BSE and genetically engineered foods have horrified the nation. Doctor Doom has gloss opines that there really isn't any evidence that humans can catch anything from the meat of infected cattle (I would love to be a fly on the wall when a ravaged Cordelia Gummer, force-fed as a child on hamburger by her evangelical father, John Selwyn, finally confronts him. The drama will make Ibsen's Ghosts look like

a Ray Cooney production).

It was the sheep that went barmy first, eating trees, attacking dogs and baa-ing in tongues. The enlightened farming community responded to this by feeding them in ground-up form to their cattle. Pretty soon cows were going mad all over Britain, slopping about on wobbly legs like a middle manager at an office party. The answer was obvious: grind them up and feed them to us.

Then the scare started which was how we discovered what actually went into hamburgers, sausages and mince. Not 100 per cent pure beefsteak -all nice and red and white like in the ads - but cheeks, chops, tail, bowel and bollocks - things you wouldn't let into your com-post heap, let alone into your stomach. And even those wonderful prime sirloin joints turned out to have nerve endings in them that could have carried (says Doctor Doom) infection from the brains of the maddened bovines. Which is why beef sales have dropped by 25 per cent in Britain as a whole

- and (I bet) by 99 per cent to readers of the *Independent*. Beeffess Britain sits back and breathes a sigh of relief. The trouble is that you can-

in chocolate, jelly, biscuits and ice cream. So a children's party is a regular Belshazzar's feast. with the writing firmly on the share an affliction: like Diana, wall. "Where's the beef, children?" asks the demon entertainer. "It's inside us!" comes the reply. The obvious answer should be to let the scientists loose on

cows. Using genetic engineering techniques (you know, splicing DNA and that kind of thing). they could construct the first beef again, while Professor Pan- to have an opathy of. The cattle wouldn't low much about it - after all, the career trajectories of cows do not require much cleverness. Beef would be back on the table in a trice.

But, as Prince Charles almost pointed out this week, this would (a) be new and thus nearly as bad as modern architecture and contemporary spoken English, and (b) suggest an arrogance in tampering with nature, which could lead to unspeakable results.

Is he right? What set him off was the case of "Frankenstein's tomato". Genetic scientists have altered the structure of a strain of tomatoes so that it rots far less quickly, keeps for longer and has a slightly thicker skin. A paste produced from these fruit will go on sale (clearly marked) in Sainsbury's and Safeways next year. But suppose it somehow has the same effect on humans? Embalmers would be put out of business, cremation would be prescribed, sun-tan lotion would become unnecessary and sex for plea-sure would be a thing of the past, except amongst those very few sad men who have always been attracted to rhinos.

Don't worry, my scientific friends reassure me, it doesn't work like that - you can't catch genetics. What is more likely, they say, is that something will go wrong and we will breed a race of super-intelligent and highly aggressive tomatoes tomatoes that won't go meekly into the tube. Personally, as Christmas and its excesses loom, I could use food that is genetically programmed to throw itself up.

Under the skin of | Keeping the heat mutant tomatoes

From Mr Charlie Harris Sir: When food such as a tomato rots, a number of chemical reactions take place, in which many different nutrients deteriorate at different rates. Some deteriorate re-

markably rapidly. Genetically engineered food may preserve the appearance of freshness, but does it preserve the freshness of all the nutrients involved (News Analysis: "Engineering a plateful of trouble?", 14 December)? Some attributes - such as bright colour and firm skin are indicators that the food inside is fresh.

But if growers can interfere with the indicators, we can no longer trust what the appearance is telling us.

To put it another way, does genetic engineering keep food fresh - or does it keep it stale?

CHARLIE HARRIS London, NW3

under his hat

From Mr Owen Surridge

Sir: Subterfuge is part of the armoury of every foreign correspondent, as I am sure Angus Roxburgh, the BBC's Moscow resident, is aware (Letters; "Hats off to the BBC's heads", 13 December).

It is no good railing at his masters' bare-heads edict, cocooned as they are in centrally heated offices. What he needs is a wig, preferably made of fur of the same colour as his

Obey the letter of the law, Mr Roxburgh, and keep the spirit under your "hat".
Yours warmly, OWEN SURRIDGE London, NW5 14 December

'The Nativity', Roger van der Weyden (1576) E. T. Archive Two different Christmases

From Mr Damian Ciappelli Sir: Radio One presenter Simon Mayo ("The blasphemy of a meaningless Nativity", 12

December) fails to see the difference between the religious festival of Christmas and the secular one that occurs at the same time. True Christians can see the difference, and they are able to accept the secular fes-tival for what it is - what Mr Mayo describes as "cards, television, alcohol, food and

Santa". Since it is not Mr Mayo's Cardiff intention to move anyone 12 December

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are mashle to acknowledge unpublished letters.

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towards Christ through his fatu-ous "cartoon nativity", it is absurd for him to suggest that Christians are committing blasphemy when they "settle for a Christmas story that has lost all power to fire the imagination". He fails to understand that the greatest story ever told" has lasted so long because it is

a part of the Christian religion.
I accept his view that there is more than one way of telling a story. However, he does not distinguish between re-interpreting a story and simply mocking a story. Yours faithfully, D. V. CIAPPELLI

on campuses

From The Rev David Kingdon Sir: Jim Murphy, president of the National Union of Students, comments on the find-

that on a significant member of campuses the Christian Union is frequently the largest and most active student society? Yours faithfully, " DAVID P. KINGDON Theological Books Editor, UK Inter-Varsity Press Leicester

technology to enhance service

House of Commons London, SW1

QUOTE UNQUOTE

Violence is not a knife in the hand. It grows, like a poison tree, inside people who, unlike yourselves, have not learnt to value other human beings - Frances Lawrence, widow of murdered headmaster Philip, in a letter to his pupils

I hope you won't think I am being a nuisance but I have changed my mind as to what I want for Christmas. I wanted to have a telescope but now I want to have my daddy back because without my daddy I will not be able to see the stars anyway - Lucien Lawrence, eight, writing to Father Christmas

My government is taking part in this agreement without enthusiasm ... will this truly materialise or remain a piece of paper? — Alija Izethegovic, Bosnian president, signing the peace

treaty in Paris The Brixton police are killers and they will not understand what they have done until one of them has been killed - Rudy Narayan, Civil Rights UK compaigner, in a speech just before the

It wasn't Brixton that rioted, it was a small minority of thugs and criminals who as ever look for an opportunity to embark on criminal exercises - Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police

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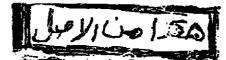
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comment

What keeps Norman stormin'

The man who saved Asda has the makings of a political heavyweight. By Nigel Cope

Watching Archie Norman pre-sent the latest bumper set of trading figures at Asda this week was a fascinating exercise in amateur psychology. Most chief executives of major companies choose to run their presentations in a starchy fashion. They wear stiff pin-striped suits and stick resolutely to a stilted, pre-written speech.

Not Mr Norman. The Asda chief executive removed his jacket and paced the room with his rather stooping walk. Pinned to his slightly crumpled white shirt was a bright yellow badge bearing the simple legend: "Archie". He used no notes but spoke fluently. Responses to trickier posers began with evasive phrases like "But let me just say this first..." It was shirt-sleeved management, man-of-the-people stuff. It was also a performance of almost

parliamentary assurance.
This is no coincidence. Rumours are flying that after transforming Asda from retail basketcase to star of the sector in little more than three years, "Stormin' Norman", as he has become known, is looking to move into politics. A committed Tory, he is thought to be on some nomination lists. He has also been mentioned as a possible candidate for Harrogate, close to his York-

on Thursday, he was anxious to play down his ambitions. "No, I'm not on any shortlists. No, I haven't asked to be. No, I'm not going to be MP for Harrogate." Those close to him confirm that he has political ambitions but say he is unlikely to stand at the next election. With Norman would not fancy five years as a backbencher, they say. In the meantime, he is close to one area of political controversy. As a fervent supporter of rail privatisation, he is on the board of Railtrack.

Archie Norman is viewed as one of the most gifted businessmen of his generation. Still only 41, he has honed his management and com-munications skills at Cambridge and Harvard and then high-flying

jobs at Citibank, McKinsey, the prestigious management consul-tants, and on to top jobs at Kingfisher, the retail group which includes Woolworth and B&Q, before joining Asda three years ago. Potentially, we are looking at a future political heavyweight.

He has some of the political balling of the political balling of the political balling of the political balling.

skills. One retail expert who knows him well says: "His manner is such that he could be talking utter rub-

hish but you still believe him."

A former McKinsey colleague said: "Norman is like a politician when he speaks. He's good at saying a lot and saying nothing." So far, his political record is limited to an unsuccessful effort in the council elections at Southwark, south London, in the late Eighties.
As the rumours of his political

ambitions have grown, Mr Norman has played a shrewd hand. Over the past year, he has carefully crafted an image as people's champion and consumer's friend. He styles himself as a deliverer of low prices and scourge of price-fixing

In the last year alone, he led the challenge that broke the Net Book Agreement, tried to cut the price



Archie Norman: he may telephone for an 'off-the-record' chat

lenge came from a Tory supporter added to the embarrassment. Finally, Mr Norman also supported the campaign for a two-minute silence on Armistice Day, earning

himself plaudits from the Sun.
It has all helped make him one of Britain's best-known businessmen, not quite in the Richard Branson or Anita Roddick league,

You should see the deference he gets at head office. It's frightening'

himself to the campaign for cheaper bananas. He has also championed the cause of share options for all staff, not just top

This campaign provoked a hum-iliating climbdown by the govern-ment just days after the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, had ruled that all share options, not just those of "fat cat" directors, should be subject to tax. That the chal-

of over-the-counter medicines, only but a rising star nonetheless. The will irritate potential voters in the way that the retail sector has been

ruffled. His supermarket rivals in particular are resentful of Asda's campaigns and gimmicks such as brolly patrols for customers who get caught in the rain and Pet Stops to look after customers' pooches. They also think he steals their ideas and dresses them up as his own. What irks them more is that he admits it. "I never have any good ideas," he claims. "I just copy other people's," One retail analyst voices dis-

content."I've had enough of him for the time being. His high profile is getting up everybody's nose. If it carries on much longer, he will

become a figure to be shot down."
Privately, Mr Norman knows
this and he manages his image carefully. Most requests for interviews are turned down. "Asda is about a team, not just one man," his people say. Though not co-operating with an interview, Mr Norman may telephone for an "off-the-record chat". This is all spin-doctor stuff that any politician would be proud of.

Mr Norman filters information rivate lite expertiv. He describes his house, where he lives with his wife and daughter, as a three-bedroom house in Yorkshire. But the other Norman family home is a 700-acre farm on Arran off the west coast of Scotland, where the young Archie descendant of tenant farmers on the Duke of Argyll's estate and the son of two doctors - spent his childhood summers. He was educated at Charterhouse. Friends say

Photograph: Craig Easton

he was a bit of a young fogey who favoured tweeds as a young man. Others describe him as "egocentric". "You should see the deference he is shown at the Asda head office. It's frightening," says one.

He plays football every Monday and is described by one opponent as a "slightly stylish midfielder". He doesn't mind turning up to play in a downmarket Leeds leisure centre for games and happily goes out afterwards for pizza and few beers. At weekends, he climbs on his tractor and mows his (sizeable) lawn.

Those who know him professionally say he is deeply impressive.
"He has a very kick-arse attitude." one says. "He'll say, 'right, here's the strategy. Go do it."

"He is a pretty cold fish, but h has won the hearts and minds of those on the shop floor as well as

those at the top."

When he joined Asda, it was on the brink of collapse. With a combination of clever marketing and sound financial skills, he has slashed the company's crippling debts and transformed it into the darling of the supermarket sector. But the hard work is done. Other challenges may soon beckon.

Schools need much more than money

Chris Woodhead argues that his criticism of educational values is not party political

important and most contested of our public services. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that my pamphlet A Question of Standards has been viewed as a controversial contribution to party political debate.

Controversial it may be; party political it is not. My aim throughout is to identify the issues and to explore the arguments, not to plump for particular solutions. Take, for example, the role of the local education authority. On the one hand, we have headteachers such as Brian Sherratt of Great Barr GM School in Birmingham who argue that LEAs inevitably create a dependency culture that militates against the exercise of confident leadership. On the other, we have the Labour Party's statement that LEAs have "an essential role in helping struggling schools, providing advice and support - and intervening to raise standards".

Given this clash of views, I argue that we need to know more about how LEAs are working with schools to raise standards. Have we really sunk to such a state of intellectual and political insecurity that anyone can seriously argue that to raise these questions is in itself to display a political view?

Neither is there anything remotely political in the question that lies at the heart of my pamphlet - what can be done to improve the quality of teaching in our schools?

There is cross-party agree-ment that headteachers and governors must do more to root out bad teaching. It is not, however, solely a matter of dealing with a small minority of incompetent teachers. Standards of teaching generally need to be raised. Many primary teachers do not have a secure enough grasp of the academic knowlage, understanding and skill they are now required to teach. We have to restore a belief in the teacher as an authority who

who has a responsibility to teach. We must do everything possible to ensure that fewer children leave primary school unable, or barely able, to read and write. There is no reason why the vast majority of children cannot learn to read by the age of seven.

Is it, though, all a matter of resourcing? If this or any future government was to provide

Education is top of the politional agenda, the most would standards necessarily rise? To reply that they would not is not to dismiss resources as unimportant: it is simply to assert the common-sense truth that effective teaching depends, critically, upon the teachers knowing enough and caring enough about their subject, having high expectations of their children and being willing and able to employ a range of different teaching strategies as they pursue different curricular objectives. Good teachers may be able to teach even better when they have 20 children rather than 30 in their class; but there is absolutely no reason to believe that it is the size of class that makes a bad teacher bad.

Ultimately, what matters most in raising educational standards is the culture in which teachers work. Do we as a nation care enough about education? Is education about "reading, writing, spelling and sums, great literature ... British history, a proper grounding in science"? Or is it about the "need to produce learners who can think critically, synthesise and transform, experiment and create?"

The first quotation is from the Prime Minister, the second from a professor of education. Of course, we want and need both. But we have to recognise that far too many young people con-tinue to leave school functionally illiterate, with a record of under-achievement that reaches back into primary school.

The ability to think critically

is important, but there are more basic skills that must be mastered first. The emphasis, moreover, on critical thought can militate against the intellectual virtues that the philosopher Michael Oakeshott charac-terised as "disinterested curiosity, patience, honesty, exactness, concentration and doubt".

We need to rediscover our confidence in such virtues, a recognise that education is a transaction between the generations in which the young are knows more than his pupils and initiated into knowledge and understanding that they would not otherwise acquire, and to regain our belief in teaching as something more than the facilitating of pupil learning.

Are such arguments political? Are they even very con-

The writer is Chief Inspector of Schools in England.

Why shouldn't I be a mummy-granny?

All they wanted was a baby, but the Cobbs fell foul of a political furore. Mary Braid met them

Alison Cobb, 61, yesterday "came out" as the coldest woman in Britain to have fertility treatment. It was a brave move and a nerve-racking experience for the grandmother of four and her husband. Stephen, a zoologist 14 years her

At her husband's environmental consultancy in Oxford, Mrs Cobb, an animal technician, joked: "Please don't make me look like a mad granny with a Zimmer frame." She still shudders at the memory of the public outrage, almost two years ago, when it was revealed that a 59-year-old British woman had given birth to twins after treatment in Dr Severino Antinori's controversial clinic in Rome, a mere stone's throw from

She should remember. According to the couole, who have been together for 20 years, it was the furore over the case - obscene, unnatural and selfish were among the most common condem-nations – which brought their own hush-hush treatment in the Nurture Clinic at Nottingham University to an abrupt and for them, devastating end, Mrs Cobb was just weeks from her 60th birthday. She was six years older than any other

woman to have been treated in a British clinic.
Mrs Cobb looks a good 10 years younger than
her age but makes no conscious effort to hide the years. You can see her type all over Oxford; mid-dle class ladies in Barbours and headscarves, riding bicycles and taking a full part in the town's intellectual life. They are not spring chickens but

vigorous and healthy.

She chose to reveal her identity in yesterday's issue of the British Medical Journal, to challenge public prejudice about older mothers and "the complete lack of consideration for potential fathers". Since they first sought fertility treatment 15 years ago, the Cobbs complain that the focus has always been on Mrs Cobb's age and rights to treatment. "I have been a non-person," said Mr Cobb, who was only 31 and childless when they first sought medical help. If he had been the elder, no one would have raised an eyebrow at their plans for parenthood, they maintain.

Until three days ago, only Mrs Cobb's three supportive and encouraging grown-up daughters – two of whom are doctors and all of whom have young children – were aware that she and her bushing had had be tree to the company of the com her husband had had IVF treatment. "At the time we had been advised by the clinic not to tell anyone about the treatment," said Mrs Cobb.

Cobbs past their ethics committee. Guidelines.



Alison and Stephen Cobb: 'You do whatever it takes to have a baby'

They were afraid of the publicity. Fertility patients are among the most compliant in the world. You do whatever it takes to have a baby." Fifteen years ago, when they first married and

thought about a family, they accepted medical advice that nothing could be done for them. They got on with life. Their work took them regularly to Africa. They were in love; they had a fulfilling life and that had to be enough.

It was, in fact, the first media reports about Dr Antinori's clinic which first awakened the couple's hope that they might yet be able to have a child together. They tried for months to find a clinic that would accept them. Every specialist turned them down. The doctors were often

issued by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which regulates fertility treatment, leave it up to individual doctors to decide whether a patient is too old for treatment. Their main concern is the welfare of any child born. Only the Nurture Clinic put them before its ethics panel. Miraculously, they passed.

"We each wrote our own arguments for the committee," said Mr Cobb. "We were not allowed to meet the members. They were the jury, but we were not allowed to look them in

The physical and emotional trials began. There were painful injections, courses of hormones, and a search for a willing egg donor.

Eventually, in vitro fertilisation, using Mr Cobb's sperm, took place. The first cycle failed, but the sperm, took place. The first cycle failed, but the sperm, took place.

couple had been promised two more attempts.

Then came the scandal. When the row erupted, Mrs Cobb remembers the shock of hearing the then health secretary Virginia Bot-tomley's assertion on Radio 4 that a woman of 59 would never receive treatment in a British clinic. "A week later a letter from our clinic arrived saying that our treatment was being stopped. We were distraught. It was the worst

thing that had happened in our marriage."

So why did Mrs Cobb decide to try for a baby 30 years after she last gave birth, and to con-template going to her child's 21st when she was in her eighties? Her reason, she says, is simple. She wanted to make the man she loves happy and fulfill his desire to be a father. She knew how much he regretted missing fatherhood by marrving an older woman.

Yesterday her quiet, rational explanation of events crumbled only once: when Mr Cobb tried to put into words his longing for a baby. "When our first grandchild came it was painful," he said. "My step-daughter was getting into the swing of having children and it seemed my chance had gone. There was a sense that I had blown it." Mrs Cobb started to cry.

"I suppose I am defying my age," she admit-ted. "But the technology is there. It can be done.

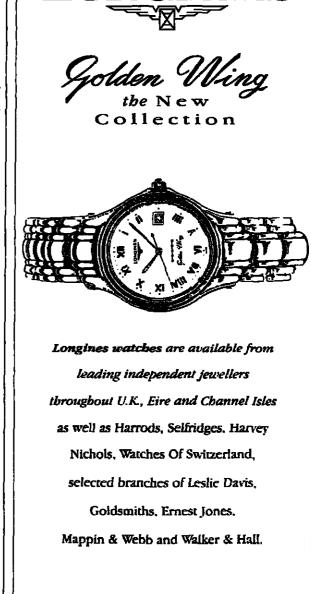
It has been done."

"Fertility experts say that eggs are in short sup-ply and that therefore people like us are not a high priority. I think younger women who have an early menopause, for example, should take priority, but we should not be rejected purely on the grounds of age and without any consideration of fathers. Men have rights as well.

According to the Cobbs, the phenomenon of mamme-nonne or mummy-grannies - as the Italians call elderly mothers - will not go away. When fertility techniques are perfected there will be many more couples like them demanding treatment. They hope that by coming forward they will help foster a "calmer, rational" approach to the question of the fertility rights of older mothers and

of fathers of all ages.

The Cobbs pursued treatment in Rome after their disappointment in Britain. Their third and last treatment at this time last year failed. They spent £12,000 on treatment alone. They are disappointed but not regretful. "I can cope with fail-



FOR A CATALOGUE PLEASE TELEPHONE 0161 624 3977

The climax to a calamitous year

Pre-tax loss of £321m vs £46m profit

One-off charges balloon from £24m to £204m

Net assets collapse from £699m to £355m

Countdown to disaster

Rights issue raises £310m

1994 Nigel Rich appointed chief executive

1994 Launches £1.2bn for Northern Electric

Disastrous QE2 Cruise ends in

1995 Northern Electric bid officially withdrawn

Mar 1995 Professor Littlechild unveils review of

Rec share prices slump

1995 Half-time losses reach £48m.

electricity prices

Sept 1992 Hongkong Land tenders 85p a share

1993 Rights issue raises £205m

25 per cent stake

1993 Hongkong Land acquires

Dec 1993 Rights Issue raises £400m

PR fiasco

1995 Ritz sold for £75m

1995 £321m loss announced

Borrowings soar from £20m to £229m ...

No dividends for foreseeable future:

Cash haemonhage continues

rune 1991 Davy acquired

Feb.

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR; JEREMY WARNER

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

Engineering setback: British giant's profits plummet as biggest shareholder quells rumours that it is losing patience

Trafalgar's £321m loss stuns City

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

Trafalgar House stunned the City yesterday with a much bigger loss than even the gloomi est forecasters had expected. Long-suffering shareholders in Trafalgar, which owns the QE2 and until recently London's Ritz hotel, were dealt a further blow with the news that neither ordinary nor preference dividends will be paid until the group is making "sustainable

profits" again.

The £321m loss for the year to September, compared with a £46m profit in the previous 12 months, included £204m of one-off reorganisation costs and asset write-downs and capped a disastrous year for one gineering. Hongkong Land, the company's largest shareholder, issued a statement of support to quell persistent rumours that it was losing patience with its illconceived investment.

Simon Keswick, chairman of Trafalgar, said: "The board has determined to take vigorous action to tackle all the problems that have beset Trafalgar House in the past. A full turnaround requires a culture change and will not be brought about

One of the stock market's er the cost of the reorganisation worst performers in 1995,

Trafalgar's shares fell a further 2.5p to 24.5p yesterday, valuing the whole company at only £264m despite its sales of almost £4bn. Since the beginning of the year, they have slumped from a high of 76p. In 1987, the shares peaked at 331p.

At the current level, the company is valued at less than Hongkong Land paid for its 26 per cent stake in 1992 when it chose Trafalgar as its vehicle for expansion outside the colony.

Yesterday, the company, the colony's largest group, said it had full confidence in Trafalgar's management, adding that it remained a long-term investor. It warned, however, that its share of the loss would result in a significant reduction in

Higgs & Hill warns on profits

Analysts were wrong-footed by the size of the reported loss

because many expected that

borrowing covenants based on

Trafalgar's net asset value would

ensure that any loss for the year was capped at about £200m.

had renegotiated covenants de-

pendent on the ratio of bor-rowings to shareholders' funds

Trafalgar's bombshell con-

tained a litany of catastrophic

statistics. Borrowings grew 10-

fold during the year, the value of the company's net assets halved from £699m to £355m

and Nigel Rich, chief executive

for the past 15 months, warned

the cash haemorrhage would continue this year with at least

another £100m flowing out.

that were less onerous.

The company said yesterday it

The construction group Higgs & Hill said it expected to make between 40 to 50 redundancies in its construction division as part of a major overhaul of its

building operations, writes Magnus Grimond. The group, which employs around 800 in its contracting and construction arm, will also make a £2.5m provision to cov-

group is to make a £3.5m pro-Guy's Hospital after further delays on the project.

The news came as Higgs & Hill said full year profits for 1995 were likely to fall below expectations as a result of the continuing difficulties in the group's markets. The company said it expected the trading results to be around break even for the

year in which Trafalgar failed in its bid to buy Northern Electric for £1.2bn and lived through a public relations fiasco after a cruise on the huxury QE2 cruise liner saw passengers travelling to the US in far from ideal circumstances while a bodged refit was completed.

Included in the exceptional charges was a £31m provision to cover "a radical programme of change" at Cunard, £8m to refund passengers whose cruises were ruined and £79m to provide against a write-down of the value of the fleet. Even before these one-off charges, an op-erating loss of £16m was struck against profits last time of £8m as occupancy levels and rates per berth sold failed to match

vision against a contract at should see the benefits of restructuring show through in the figures, Higgs said.

Although reasonably optimistic about the prospects, "a lot will depend on how much work is pushed through from the Government's Private Finance Initiative", according to John Theakston. the chief executive.

expectations. Although Trafalgar admitted that further asset disposals would be required to reduce borrowings, there was no indication as to which part of the wide-ranging empire would be up for sale. Canard is thought to be unsaleable until its deepseated problems are sorted out and it is closer to profitability which, the company, warned might take three or four years.

Other immediately saleable operations include Ideal Homes, the housebuilding arm that increased profits from £19m to £28.4m and represents one of the few successful activities within the group. Trafalgar said it would be ulling out of its less attractive S housebuilding operations. The other main drag on the

group came in the engineering operations where heavy losses at the 1991 acquisition Davy, contract problems in power engineering and continuing red ink at Sofresid, the French subsidiary, dragged the division into a £110m loss even before £65m of restructuring charges.

Mr Rich said that the company was still working through contracts - written in the early 1990s - that committed Trafalgar to contractual liabilities without providing any protection against subcontractors who underperformed

signal TV takeover battles Trafalgar's bombshel

NIC CICUTTI

Media experts vesterday predicted a bitter TV takeover war once new rules relaxing ownership of Britain's television

New rules

companies come into effect.

Among those tipped to become predators for some of the smaller ITV companies were Carlton Communications, which already owns Central and has stakes in Meridian and GMTV, Granada, which owns LWT, and MAI, which controls Meridian and Anglia.

They will all be able to expand their empires significantly once the new Broadcasting Bill, the new Broadcasting Bill, announced yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, becomes law in early 1997.

Share prices in their likely targets rose dramatically in anticipation of takeovers. Ulster

TV added almost £100m to its £1.3bn market value as shares in the company rose 68p to £10.23. The value of HTV, also seen by some analysts as a potential bidder for Border TV. rose by about £25m to about £260m, as shares rose from 269p to 302p. Grampian was up 16p to 219p, adding £5m to the TV company's £66m value.

Likely predators' share prices remained flat or dipped slightly. Cariton was down 17p to 959p, partly on renewed spec-ulation of a bid for United Newspapers, owners of the Express titles, while MAI fell 9p to 310.5 pence. However, a Carlton Communications spokesman described the proposed Bill as "very good news

for the industry" The Heritage Secretary's Bill proposes to remove the limit of two-licences for any one ITV company. The new limit will be a 15 per cent share of the total television audience.

The Bill is seen by many analysts as more generous towards companies such as Carlton and Granada than had been anticipated. Anthony de Larrinaga, a media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said: "Using audience share rather than advertising was a more attractive assessment of limits.

What this means is that companies in London and the South East areas will be given more headroom to grow their operations, giving Carlton the opportunity to expand its business. I would have thought that Yorkshire Tyne Tees would be a likely target from either Gran-ada or MAI, although that may have to involve a break-up of the YTT company to comply with

the 15 per cent rule."

Granada may be out of the running because it already controls the Granada and LWT franchises, is moving into satellite TV and also has its hands

which will also include some of-BT plans phone bills shake-up

PETER RODGERS Business Editor

BT yesterday moved a step nearer to offering radically new tariffs to its customers, which would include higher line rentals in exchange for lower

Among the options believed to be under study is an offer of free local calls, though probably restricted to certain off-peak times. The company will also be able to tailor tariffs to customers' usage, for example heavy users of long distance or international calls.

The moves emerged as Don Cruickshank, the telecoms regulator, announced the next step in consultations on the removal of price limits on BT's line rental charges, an essential first step to a wider range of tariffs.

As a result, BT is expected to propose at least three new residential tariffs. One would have rent and call charges increasing by no more than inflation from current levels. The others would have higher rentals, in two stages up to about £30 a quarter, but with call charges 20 to 25 per cent lower than now.

BT would be entitled to take this further and offer free local calls, although telecoms specialists believe it is more likely to offer free or very cheap local calls only at off-peak periods. The move is regarded by BT as vital to its campaign to slow the flight of customers to cable companies, which are already taking 50,000 a month and eating into BT's 95 per cent

market share. The announcement by Mr Cruickshank that he is starting the statutory consultation period on the line rental proposals, came a day after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report cleared the way for customers to take their telephone numbers with them when they move to BT's competitors.

boost to the cable companies. and BT is anxious to put more marketing weapons in its armoury to fight them.

Mr Cruickshank said it was appropriate for him to lift the cap on line rentals, giving BT the freedom to adopt a "more imaginative approach" to the way it prices services, particularly for residential customers.

BT will have to offer falls in call charges to offset any increase in line rentals. Mr Cruickshank said BT had told him that it would structure the packages so no customer, for a given level of usage, would see any real increase in their bill. and most would see reductions. But he warned that BT would

have to launch a big media campaign to help customers understand what was being pro-posed. And BT would still have to achieve overall price reductions of around £400m a year under the current price control system. Customers in BT's light user

scheme, who do not use their telephones much, would be guaranteed no real increase in their bills. Mr Cruickshank said. BT said that it wanted to sell not just on price but on quali-

ty and variety of service. Mr Cruickshank said that an indirect benefit of removing the cap on line rentals, which restricts increases to the rate of inflation plus 2 per cent, is that he will abandon the "Access Deficit Contribution" chargto channel money between tele-

coms operators. Mercury said Mr Cruickshank's plans to end access deficit contributions would come too late to prevent claims from BT for "a whole range of unreasonable costs, the most extraordinary of these being the funding of a campaign to win

Siemens' £1.1bn stake in chips to provide jobs for 1,800



Jobs for the boys: Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, in Wallsend, Tyneside, yesterday where he laid the cornerstone for Siemens' £1.1bn microchip factory that will eventually provide jobs for 1,800 Photograph: Paul Vincente/Reuter | full with its £3.3bn Forte bid .

Bonds surge as France cuts rates

The French bond market rallied as the Bank of France yesterday lowered interest rates and striking railway workers voted to return to work. But with fresh signs of weakness in France's main trading partner, Germany, analysts warned that the flagging French economy might not revive even with further rate cuts. A sombre report warned that the French banking system was in a state of depression.

Comment, page 19 by a centime against the mark

points down at 1859.25.

Bonds surged in response to the easing in monetary policy, with the yield on long-dated stock falling by almost 10 basis points. The franc strengthened

market lost some of the gains it had made on Thursday with the CAC-40 index ending 16

The Bank of France cut the intervention rate, which sets a floor to money market rates, from 4.7 to 4.45 per cent. Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the central bank, said the cut had been made "because the franc is stable, inflation has been contained and the monetary aggregates are developing favourably".

With the intervention rate still 70 basis points above the new German repo rate of 3.75 per cent, analysts said there was scope for a further reduction of half a per cent. Until the cur-rency crisis of the spring, the in west German manufacturing

to close at 3.44, but the stock French central bank had maintained a margin of 20 basis points above the repo rate.

"But even the interest rate cuts that are possible won't be enough to revive the economy, warned Julian Jessop, economist at HSBC Markets, which is projecting growth of about 1.5 per cent next year. As a result, he said, the bud-

get deficit next year could be as iigh as 4.7 per cent rather than the 4 per cent targeted by the French government. This would make it unlikely that France could conform with the criterion of 3 per cent or less in 1997 set by the Maastricht Treaty for eligibility to monetary union.

orders in October suggested that France was unlikely to receive much stimulus from an early pick-up in the stalled German economy. Total orders fell 4.5 per cent in Octo-

On the brighter side, a survey of business confidence in western Germany by IFO for November showed the first rise in confidence since May.

The need for steps to revive the French economy was high-lighted by a pessionistic report about the health of French banks from AFB, the French banking association. Net banking income had fallen 6 per cent in 1994 and 7 per cent in the first half of 1995 - a nosedive unprecedented since the war.

Mortgage blow to borrowers

NIC CICUTTI

Hundreds of thousands of people who have had their homes repossesed because they were unable to pay their mortgages were dealt a blow yesterday by a High Court judgment saying they are still liable for their

A claim that borrowers should be allowed to offset their mortgage indemnity in-surance policies against any debts incurred when the value of their homes falls were rejected by the landmark ruling.

The judgment, by Mr Justice Waller, means that Woolwich Building Society, which brought the case, is legally entitled to claim the full amount of £73,000 it claims to be owed it by a former borrower.

Frank Bartlett, head of lending at the Woolwich welcomed the decision: "We have laid a claimed the full amount owed stake in the ground for many millions of people who pay their mortgages and meet their oblig-ations. We do not see why a minority of people should be able to walk away when we try to re-

claim by Iain Brown, the borrower and a former Woolwich employee, that he should not be liable for the full £73,000 debt because he was the legal bene-ficiary of the indemnity policy.

At a hearing earlier this month, specifically called to test the law on this issue, the Court heard that Mr Brown borrowed almost £88,000 on a 100 per cent mortgage to buy a house in 1988.

Woolwich lent him the monev on condition that he pay for a indemnity policy to the value of some £22,000, a quarter of the loan's value.

Mr Brown fell behind in his

payments and his debt mounted to £125,000. The house was repossesed about 2 years ago and eventually sold for £52,000, leaving £73,000 outstanding.

Woolwich received £22,000 from the indemnity policy, but from Mr Brown. He argued that he had paid for the policy and its arrangement was a contractual arrangement which entitled him to the proceeds.

The judge ruled that although he paid for the policy, he was not

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FTSE 350	1806.40	-11.50	0.6	1821.50	931.00	3.87		
FT Small Cap	1940.04	+1.67	+0.1	1993,11	1678.61	3.34		
FT All Share	1780.34	-10.39	-0.6	1837.78	1469.23	3,84		
New York *	5176.73	-5.42_	0.1	5207.44	3832.08	2.27		
Tokyo	19346.55	-152.75	-0.8	19684.04	14485.41	0.77†		
Hong Kong	9858.65	-54.19	-0.5	10032.93	6967.93	3.871		
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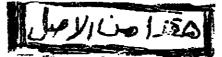
STOCK MARKETS

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The judgment dismissed a the beneficiary of it. 'Independent' Money on Saturday in the 'Weekend' section today • Tessas: To roll over or not to roll over Christmas Money: Santa Ken cuts mortgage costs 24 Corporate bond Peps: Managing for maximum safety 25

Traded endowments: Profit in secondhand policies 25



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INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 1995

business

Now Trafs has little left but the kitchen sink



The danger is that the continuing cashhaemorrhage (another £100m will slip away this year) will

necessitate the sale of the remaining jewels - even Cunard is only being fattened up for market

Laccounting, the well-worn management technique of blaming it all on the previous regime, lobbing in a barrowload of provisions and hoping to hell you've done enough to create a solid floor for earnings growth. The extent of restructuring provisions at NFC and Laporte surprised the market, but nothing could have prepared it for the bombshell Trafalgar House dropped yesterday.

Arguably when the market is expecting you to lose £200m, another £120m is neither here nor there, so it was little surprise that the shares, an unqualified disaster over the past 10 years or so, slipped just 2p to 24.5p. More of a weary shrug than the outrage that might have been expected.

Even so, the picture Nigel Rich paints of the company he inherited as chief executive 15 months ago is an extremely worrying one. There appears to have been a complete absence of communication between the centre and the provinces and an unwilling-ness to co-operate when head-office wallahs descended from on high to disturb the glo-rious isolation subsidiaries had previously

The Davy and Sofresid acquisitions in the early 1990s were left, it appears, to run themselves with no attempt being made to integrate the new operations in the group as a whole or to instil any new disciplines or reporting systems. Hardly any wonder, cyn-

in the first place.

What Mr Rich is faced with at Trafs is a roup in complete disarray, rightly named Britain's worst-managed company in a

recent business magazine poll.

His problem is that changing a whole corporate culture is difficult enough at the best of times. Changing it at the worst of times, when markets are dire, cash-flow weak, bornoview high receipt leavent changes high receipt leavent changes. rowings high, morale low and shareholders restive, becomes infinitely more so.

In that regard he does have the advantage of an investor register so pummelled with bad news over the past three years, so weakened by dipping deep for rights issue funds to flush down the drain, that in terms of sentiment things can only get better. Even Hongkong Land, which has paid more for a quarter of the company than the whole is now worth, issued a grudging vote of support yesterday.

There are some good businesses in the group, notably Ideal Homes, the house-

The danger is that the continuing cash haemorrhage (another £100m will slip away this year) will necessitate the sale of the remaining jewels - even Cunard is only being fattened up for market.

That will leave nothing but a collection of dull, low-margin engineering and construction businesses, struggling in highly com-

Sky's the limit in TV shake-up

there are two obvious winners in the Government's freshly revised Broadcasting Bill - the shareholders of small ITV companies and Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB.

The market immediately recognised the identity of the first group of winners, sending the prices of small players such as Grampian, Scottish and HTV soaring. Even Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, already the target of bid speculation, won additional favour among investors. That BSkyB was given a green light was less immediately grasped; indeed, the shares lost 10p in yesterday's trading. First to the ITV companies. The Gov-

ernment has decided to scrap the old-fash-ioned two-licence limit in favour of a far more generous limit of 15 per cent of the total television audience. That gives even giant Carlton, which has the London weekday and Central franchises, room to grow. Indeed, it is just about possible for Carlton to take on MAI, which in turn controls the Meridian and Anglian Television licences.

With such a generous ceiling, the whole of the ITV sector could be consolidated into just three groups: mix and match as you like. cross-ownership, first unveiled in the form of a White Paper earlier this year, will allow all but the biggest national newspaper groups to buy terrestrial broadcasters - limited, again, to 15 per cent of the total television audience. At the same time, broadcasters will be able to buy national newspapers (if any want to), if they don't exceed 20 per cent of the national market. For ITV companies, at any rate, there will

be plenty of potential buyers, and big mixedmedia companies are bound to emerge. That is no doubt a good thing. After all, the commercial television market in the UK as at stands is too fragmented to allow real "national champions" to develop. Now there is every chance of creating much stronger companies.

So much for the past - traditional TV. What about the future? The Government apparently believes that its liberal stance on digital terrestrial TV, along with its promise to award licences to those who contract to roll out their digital services quickly, is enough to ensure its success. In fact, the only thing that will power digital TV is programming sport and movies above all. Why would consumers pay extra for a black box if they don't get something new?

Here's the rub. All the good programming is already tied up - by BSkyB. Moreover, Sky has ambitious plans to offer digital satellite

It has been quite a month for kitchen sink | ics note, when there weren't any to pass on | petitive markets. Not exactly what the | More over, the liberalised rules on media | within a year, and up to 200 channels of it at that, enough to plaster sports, children's programming, films, drama. US sitcoms and pay-per-view boxing matches across the screen 24 hours a day. Unbelievably, it will also be able to bid as both operator and provider for a signficant share of total DTT services. Can others compete against this mighty onslaught? It is hard to see how. other than as niche players.

Regulator mops BT's bloody nose

What the regulator gives with one hand, he takes away with the other. Don Cruickshank's decision to begin the next stage of liberalisation in BT's tariff structure came the day after he gave the company a bloody nose on number portability. A coincidence, no doubt, but perhaps the telecoms regulator was feeling magnanimous for a change. Portability takes away some of BT's monopoly strength by removing a serious obstacle to signing up with a competitor. Abandoning the cap on rental will allow BT to fight back against the encroachment of cable by offering a menu of different charg-ing structures - free local calls, perhaps, in exchange for a high fixed charge. Such flexibility will help BT to slow its loss of cus-

North Sea Oil: Canadian takeover will create key player

Goal accepts £131m bid from Talisman

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Goal Petroleum, one of the original band of independent UK companies set up to exploit North Sea oil reserves, has agreed a £131m bid from the Canadian group Talisman Energy. The offer, pitched at 97.5p cash per share, sent Goal's shares up 4.5p to 96.5p yesterday, having already soared from 68p on Tuesday when the company alerted the market that bid

talks were underway. The takeover looked all-but sewn up after two of Goal's biggest shareholders - with 45.5 per cent of the shares—gave un-dertakings to accept the Talisman offer. Norwich Union has pledged its 29 per cent stake to the Talisman offer even if a higher offer emerges. Mercury Asset Management, with around irrevocable undertaking, but is

British Petroleum known as BP Canada, is already two or three times the size of Goal in the North Sea. But analysts believe the acquisition will create a North Sea player on a par with substantial existing British groups like Premier Consoli-dated Oilfields and Monument Oil & Gas.

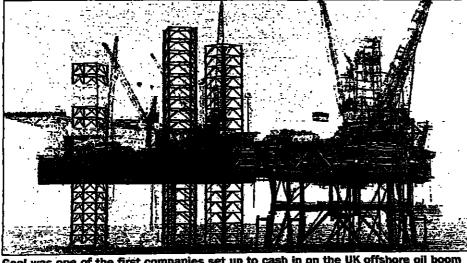
Goal brings UK production of around 20,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day - roughly two-thirds the level of Talisman's and is expected to maintain output over the next two years. Analysts believe that will deliver strong earnings and cash flow, and point to a portfolio of low risk assets. The majority of its British Petroleum and have been in the forefront of its dri-ve to cut costs. It also has extensive exploration acreage.

Duncan Ritchie. Goal managing director, denied that the offer had been accepted bewith Big Bang.

cause of any hidden problems at the company. "This was a very good offer... a golden opportunity to deliver value to shareholders", he said.

In September, the company announced pre-tax profits lift-ed from £3.5m to £6.87m for the six months to June. Originally Gas & Oil Acreage Ltd, it was set up by merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell as one of a number of small companies established in the early 1970s to allow direct investment in the North Sea oil bonanza, then in its infancy.

It was one of the original part-ners in the consortium which discovered the Buchan field in the North Sea and also took a producing fields are operated by 5 per cent interest in Wytch Farm, the UK's biggest onshore oil field in Dorset. Morgan Grenfell bailed out in the mid-1980s as part of its assets reshuffle at the time of the



Kvaerner dumping threat

Kvaerner stepped up the pressure on Amec shareholders vesterday, hinting it may dump its shareholding if it loses its £360m bid battle for the group, writes Magnus Grimond.

The shares slipped 2.5p to 96p - 4p below Kvaerner's offer - as more institutional shareholders voted with their feet ahead of the Monday lunch-time close. Norwich Union sold its 26 per cent stake in the market and saw it immediately snapped up by the bidder, tak-

ing its stake to 26.1 per cent. Erik Tonseth, Kvaerner president and chief executive, said he believed they would succeed on Monday, but if they did not, Kvaerner would pursue other options. "In deciding whether or not to accept our offers, shareholders should not assume we will be either a supportive or a long-term minority holder of Amec."

But Amec hit back at Kvaerner's attempt to use "veiled and ambiguous threats, to bully shareholers into accepting its cut-price offers". Sir Alan Cockshaw, chairman, said the bidder was still trying to divert attention from the real arguments and continued to advise share-

holders to reject the bid. The outcome is likely to be finely balanced, turning on the attitude of 14 per cent share-holder PDFM and small share-

£180m payout from Yorkshire Electricity

Yorkshire Electricity confirmed a £180m special dividend, taking its handout in a year above £700m. The £4 a share payout is nearly 70 per cent more than the 240p flotation price when

the company was privatised five years ago.
Yorkshire also announced interim pre-tax profits up 13.3 per cent to £110.6m and a 10 per cent increase in dividends to 9.9p. Yorkshire - in partnership with three other regional electricity companies - is drawing up plans to reduce the cost of the move to full competition for 20 million domestic customers in 1998. expected to be some £750m.

Steel producers urge veto on Irish aid

Tim Eggar, the industry minister, was urged by Dr Swraj Paul, president of the British Iron and Steel Producers Association, to use Britain's veto to block "illegal and unjustifiable" state subsidies to Irish SteeL

Liffe clinches Chicago deal

Liffe, the international futures exchange, and the Chicago Board of Trade signed an historic agreement finalising the open out-cry linkage between the two exchanges. The launch date for the trading of the first two contracts on the two exchanges will be the second quarter of 1996.

Dresdner adds US fund manager

Dresdner Bankof Germany has acquired RCM capital management, the US fund managers, from Travelers Group for £200m. RCM, which has £17bn in funds under management, is to become the main US vehicle for Dresdner's global investment management ambitions. With a total of £113bn in funds under management, Dresdner is one of the largest asset managers in

Electra beats index

Electra Investment Trust announced a 15.7 per cent rise in net assets in the year to September compared to a 14.7 per cent rise in the FT-SE All Share index over the same period.

The oniperformance continued a trend over the past three years during which Electra's adjusted net assets have increased by 58 per cent compared with a 44 per cent rise in the market as a whole. During the year Robert Fleming acquired a 50 per cent stake in Electra Kingsway, the management, resulting in a one-off captial gain of £6.4m for Electra.

Granada share price fall raises bid fears

JOHN SHEPHERD

Granada's share price fell a further 3p to 632p yesterday, raising fresh concern about its ability to increase its £3.3bn take-over bid for the Forte hotels group.

The fall means that Grana-

da's share price is in effect below the 625p that the bid has been underwritten by BZW, Hoare Govett and Lazard Bros. Granada recently announced a 7.9p dividend, which implies an

underlying share price of 624.1p.

Granada's shares are hovering just 1.33p above the cash alternative factored into the bid. The main offer is four Granada shares, plus £23.50p cash for every 15 Forte shares, which yesterday rose 2p to 331.5p. Shares in Granada have

plunged more than 60p since the bid was launched. On the bid's first day the cash and equity offer valued each Forte share at 339p against 325.2p today.

One leading leisure analyst said: "It is very difficult to raise a takeover offer when the share price goes below the underwriting level. However, it is

still early days."
Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada who normaldoes not work on Friday's. flew to Dublin yesterday to whip up support among Irish Before he departed from

London's City Airport, he attacked vesterday's latest

missive from Forte which claimed that the document published by Granada on Thursday was "a transparent attempt to prop up its own

falling share price". Mr Robinson countered, and said Forte's latest document "is lightweight and is not going to impress anyone. There is not a word about profits or cash generation. let alone dividends. They seem to be just going through the motions to deflect attention from their own failings.

Sir Rocco Forte, chairman and chief executive of Forte, said: "Granada has failed to demonstrate any commercial logic for this deal." Granada's claim that it could boost Forte's profits be over £100m was

described as "astonishing". Mr Robinson said, however, that "the fact Forte thinks our plan to improve its profits by £100m per annum is astonishing says it all". Only 1.5 per cent of Forte's shareholders have accepted so far.

An important message to AMEC's Shareholders.

AMEC's defence against Kvaerner's offers.

To hear your own Board's view, telephone 0800 77 11 77.

The Directors of AMEC p.l.c. are the persons responsible for this advertisement. Those Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of AMEC p.l.c. accept responsibility accordingly. DATA BANK

861m shares.

96.10 + 0.05

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

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market report/shares

FT-SE 100 3,642.6 - 29.0 FT-SE 250 3,959.8 -1.9 much of the stock market ac-FT-SE 350 tion. As takeover rumours 1,806.4 - 11.5 **SEAQ VOLUME** ing 22p higher at 608p in busy

trading, and Bank of Scotland ended 16.5p stronger at 306.5p. The Royal Bank moved to try and quash the takeover speculation.

It was not, it declared, "in discussions with any potential bidder". Yet it refused to deny it had received an approach.
The market has caught the

scent of takeover action and after such a strong display it would be foolish to dismiss the speculation.

In the growing internation-alism of the banking community the two Scottish banks look increasingly vulnerable and there is a school of thought that they would be much safer if they united.

HSBC, the old Hong Kong

Scotland's two independent & Shanghai Banking Corpoclearing banks again created ration, was, however, the name in the frame yesterday.

It is widely believed to be swirled, shares of Royal Bank contemplating a big UK ac-of Scotland surged 53.5p, clos-quisition and with its Midland Bank subsidiary not particu-larly strong in Scotland, the Royal Bank could be a target.

HSBC may have decided on a hostile strike. Certainly there is a conviction it will move into takeover contention in the

New Year. Standard Chartered, never far from bid gossip, added 10p to 574p.

Rexham, formerly Bowater; was back in the takeover spotlight. Stories flowed earlier this week that a Swiss bid hov-ered. But Alusuisse, the Swiss packaging giant, denied it was interested.

However, thoughts of cor-porate activity linger and in busy trading the shares added

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

of the year

bid for Forte.

Scottish banks do a Highland fling on takeover hopes

the other large TV groups, leaving the shares, allowing for the Government back-tracked on its ownership limit, opening a declared dividend payment, the way for more takeover bids in the industry. at 632p, just below the un-

All the likely candidates jumped; Border added 27p to 245p, HTV 33p to 302p, Grampian 16p to 219p, Scot-tish 22p to 491p and Ulster 68p to 1,023p.
Yorkshire & Tyne-Tees TV,

where MAI is seen as a likely predator, jumped 92p to 698p. MAI, the financial group which controls Anglia TV, fell 9p to 310.5p; Carlton Communications, another likely to

man Alan Sugar spoke out. derwritten price of its hostile Once again shares reached

a new trading peak before los-ing their glitter. But for the first time this week they ended in negative territory, with the FT-SE 100 index off 29 points to 3.642.6.

Talk of a big programme trade and institutional selling The shares rallied 10p to in the futures market of the

March contract, caused much

97.5p a share.

AMEC, the construction

group, fell 2.5p to 96p. The of-fer from Kvaerner closes on Monday and the indications suggest the Norwegian takeover will succeed. Amstrad rallied after chair-

The shares have fallen from 283p since he talked about tough trading conditions. He said there had been no "sig-nificant" change since his state-ment and added the rumours "floating around are unfounded and I believe have been formulated with a view to forcing the price down to the benefit of certain parties who have gone short on the stock".

227.5p.
Trafalgar House's disastrous porate activity linger and in busy trading the shares added 6p to 353p.

Television shares starred as T

bidder, offering £131m or als group lost 4p to 175p fol-10wing what was regarded as a uninspiring investment pre-

sentation. An exceptional £60m trans-Atlantic charge left BAT Industries 15.5p weaker at 550.5p and Transport Development remained dull, off 7p at 179p, with stock thought to be on offer.

Regent Inns' heady run continued with the shares surging 49p at one time; they settled at 685p, up 31p. Peter Lucas at Crédit Ly-

onnais Laing is looking for profits of £6.8m this year against last year's £4.4m. Dmatek, the first Israeli

company to arrive in London started trading on AIM. The computer group raised £4m at 75p a share, closing at 85p. Manx & Overseas, another newcomer, ran into selling. Its switch from the Ofex market, where it was traded at 30p, leading pharmaceutical to AIM left the shares at 25p.

☐ JD Wetherspoon held at

TAKING STOCK

639p as its US fan club continued to mop up shares. Janus Capital Corporation, a large US investment fund. has been a persistent buyer and has lifted its shareholding to 16.21 per cent. There is talk US investors now have more than 40 per cent of the managed pubs chain. Tim Martin, chairman, regularly visits the US to keep his American supporters up to date with the last-growing

The shares have climbed from 154p since they were floated in 1992.

Chirosience, the bio-babe with promising arthritis and cancer drogs, added 14p to 364p on what was described as nosy buying. There is mar-ket talk that the company will announce a deal with a

JJASOND	HSBC, the old Hong Kong	Television shares starred as a	ction. It was pulled back with	isman Energy emerged as the	Caradon, the building materi-	to AIM left the shares at 25p. group next week.
277 70 Units and 100	OVERSITIED INDUSTRIALS	5 250 Slorges Cruz 355 x 6 4.5 17.0 3-16 5 176 Machin Authy 27 x - 12 x 14.2 4531 5 18 Neopastod 51 x 3.6 11.2 3-16 5 18 Neopastod 51 x 3.6 11.2 3-16 6 18 Neopastod 51 x 3.6 11.2 3-16 7 18 12 Child Int. 14 - 4.7 - 3.5 12.0 3-16 7 18 12 Child Int. 14 - 4.7 - 3.5 12.0 3-16 7 18 12 Child Int. 14 - 4.7 - 3.5 12.0 3-16 7 18 18 Neopastod 51 x 3.6 11.2 3-16 3-16 7 18 18 Neopastod 51 x 3.7 - 3.7	SURANCE 1173 Alexabelia: C1271 x 3 x 5.0	100 376 May Sanithan 355 125 346 511 125 147 540 540 145	Section Property Property	SHARE PRICE DATA Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price carnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by tast year's carnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: xr Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex-all n Unlisted Securities Market a Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. THE INDEPENDENT INDEX The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 6891 123 385, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. It access the intest financial reports dial 9891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below. FT-SE 100 - Real-time
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To lose one manager may be considered unfortunate, to lose two in a year suggests someone is trying to tell you something

drove the Irish defence to distraction, you could almost feel the intake of breath across Europe at the performance of Patrick Kluivert. "All skill," Ruud Gullit called him. And he was right. It is not just Tony Adams who will be losing sleep at the thought of facing his pace, his control, his ease next summer. Paulo Maldini will be too, that's how good he is.

At 19, Kluivert is a terrifying prospect. If Stan Collymore fetches £8.5m, imagine what Kluivert is worth, imagine what confidence it must engender in a team having him in front of you, imagine how happy you would now be if you had, a month ago, put a tenner on the Netherlands to win the European Championship at 16-1. In short, in a year suggests someone is trying imagine what, this year, every Preto tell you something.

On Weduesday night, as he chipped and filled, headed and flicked, and true love to give them on the first day of Christmas: a Khuivert in the youth team.

Few, sadly, will get one (except perhaps Alex Ferguson, who appears intent on ensuring the contract of every promising young player in the country is in his back pocket by the which was clearly composed by end of the festive season). Instead most managers' Christmas cheer will consist of fixture indigestion and at least Terry Venables would be able points-loss hangover. But if anyone was looking for present ideas for the score for England. stockings of the year's sporting heroes, here are a few suggestions. Martin George, chairman of

Leicester City could use a pair of manacles. To paraphrase Oscar Wilde: to lose one manager may be

- might benefit from a copy of the latest UN ceasefire proposals for Bosnia signed in Paris this week, with considered unfortunate, to lose two

Steve Stone, England's unim-paired-by-hair midfield dynamo, would appreciate a new name. Thus sparing him – and us – of the awful tabloid headlines which accompany his regular heroics: "Stone Me" "Precious Stone", and the most resomeone who was at the time. Shearer might be a good name. Then to boast of one Shearer who can

Two of the men Stone has leapfrogged over into the national team -David Batty and Graeme Le Saux all its practical suggestions about how not to invade each other's defensible space. Or alternatively, a





ON SATURDAY

There are a lot of things Terry Venables himself would want at the moment, not least a catastrophic collapse in the fortunes of Italian and Polish football. But as a big expo-

At Middlesbrough Football Club, nent of using the ball during train-ing sessions, he would be particularly thrilled with a couple of extra balls to kick around the Bisham Abbey grass. Harry Harris's preferably. What do you give a man worth £115m? Well, Ken Bates's Chelsea shareholding would not go amiss in Matthew Harding's pillow case. Short of that, a controlling interest

in a club no one else wants to own might make his life easier. Brighton, perhaps, or Hull City. And on the subject of big money, Rob Andrew, presently in control of New-castle Rugby Club, a large amount of Sir John Hall's cash and a team that no one wants to join, would be grateful for anyone capable of executing an efficient crash-tackle on an opponent clean through in a scoring position. Ludek Miklosko would do.

a North-eastern institution better able to attract incoming talent, the transfer sensation of the year has bedded in far better than was predicted. It was assumed Juninho would freeze up in the cold easterlies sweeping in direct from the Urals, but he has hardly finched. No point giving him gloves, then, par-ticularly as he seems to have arrived in England loaded down with thermals, knitted in advance by anxious members of his extended family. But

be gratefully received. In motor racing Murray Walker would be equally cheerful for a job (Rory Bremner would be relieved if Walker got one too); Damon Hill

the industrial air of his new home

town has played havoc with his complexion; some of Stephen

Hendry's left-over Clearasil would

could use a new excuse; and Michael Schumacher a decent opponent. And in cricket, a laser range-finder in Devon Malcolm's stocking might cut down on injuries in the stands; while Brian Lara could do with a bit of practice; and Mark Ramprakash would love a long run in the England team. Well just one

And elsewhere, Will Carling would find life easier if given a year's membership of a men-only gym; we would all be grateful were Eric Hall to receive another word to replace his ever-present "monster" ("prat" would do); and Jeff Tarango. after his petulant outburst at Wimbledon should be given a night out with Duncan Ferguson, Eric Cantona and Julian Dicks. With Denis Wise tagging along to order the cab

Tyson expects to advance in his grand plan

has brought to bear on his con-test against Buster Mathis Jnr tonight at the Spectrum in Philadelphia is that it will be one without educational value.

If with a slip of the tongue, even Don King admits it. "Mike has trained brilliantly for this one -er two-rounds." the Barnum of boxing said switching to smile mode at yesterday's weigh-in.
King who remains under federal indictment on insurance

fraud charges has tried just about every trick including dressing up as Uncle Sam and posing with a Benjamin Franklin lookalike - "Don got the idea for his hair when I flew my kite through a thunderstorm" - to hype the fight on television commercials but the City of Brotherly Love has rejected his sales pitch, citizens taking up fewer than 6,000 of 18,400 tickets. "T've brought them the world's greatest fighter, so what do they want from

Not to be taken for a ride is 14in more or less the answer. "King 19in thought Philadelphia fans were pay \$300 [£195] to watch Tyson fight a washerwoman." listeners to a local radio sports station were informed this week.

Business is so bad that King is reduced to peddling T-shirts bearing the promotional title "Presumption of Innocence", a dig at the New Jersey gaming commission who put paid to the fight taking place in Atlantic City on account of his indictment. Denying that he sought city and state tax favours in Philadelphia ("I continue to perform in spite of all the shackles put on me") is presently King's favourite theme.

The impression Mike Tyson Ken Jones reports from Philadelphia on a former world heavyweight champion whose speed should be decisive tonight

> vendor of equal opportunity blithely ignores the fact that Franz Botha's defeat of Axel Schulz in Germany last week put the International Boxing Federation championship into his pocket along with those of the World Boxing Council (Frank Bruno) and the World Boxing Association (Bruce Seldon). The grand plan, of course, is

to restore Tyson as the undisputed champion starting with Bruno, who will be in atten-TALE OF THE TAPE

Losses

No decision

dance tonight, first up at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on 16 March

The trouble is that the novelty of Tyson's comeback against Peter McNeeley in the Nevada desert last August, when just the prospect of detonation was enough to guarantee a full house, has worn off. It no longer existed by the time Tyson and Mathis were due to meet in Las Vegas six weeks ago. When

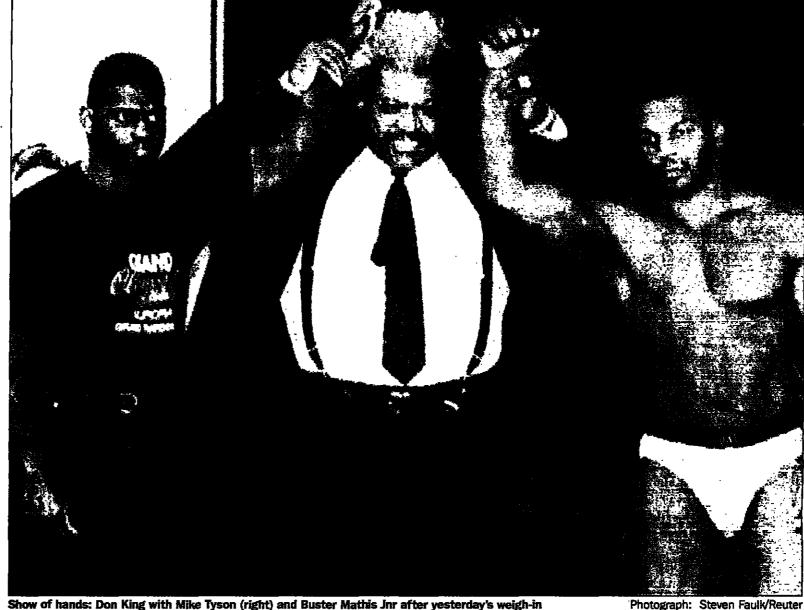
King's claim to being the Tyson's damaged thumb caused a late postponement, MGM with whom he has a six-fight promotional contract worth more than \$30m, had unloaded fewer than 2,000 tickets. It was suspected that he withdrew for financial rather than medical

> in Philadelphia, once one of the great fight towns and represented historically by such no-Joe Frazier and Sonny Liston. Local interest in boxing may have declined considerably since Frazier's great battles with Muhammad Ali but the people of Philadeiphia can still identify a mis-match when they see

However when Mayor Ed Rendell publicly asked King to consider scaling down ticket prices that range from \$25 to \$500 ringside, it could be imagthought him to be a suitable case for treatment. King's only concession was to include underprivileged inner-city youth on his guest list. "Don't miss this chance of seeing the world's greatest heavyweight," he keeps trumpeting.

Even the weigh-in, normally a King promotional bonanza, fell flat, Mathis refusing to remove the voluminous black sweat shirt that concealed his did not engage Tyson's intimidatory stare either. There are no disparate eval-

uations of Mathis; qualified ob-



Show of hands: Don King with Mike Tyson (right) and Buster Mathis Jnr after yesterday's weigh-in

handed puncher that it will come as a great surprise if he manages to keep Tyson at bay for more than a couple of rounds. It is generally agreed that to

go against Tyson without power and an advantage in height is asking for trouble. No wonwide hips and large rump. He der Mathis's mother, the widow of a prizefighter, worries about her son. "Don't get hurt," she told him.

An interesting thing is that

throwing punches to numbered instructions. "That will make it an interesting fight tactically," said Tyson's chief trainer, Jay Bright, who in truth merely responds to his brooding employer's wishes. A more realistic conclusion is that Mathis could not be fancied even if he was allowed to use a

Weighing in at 2197b to Mathis's 224, Tyson looked in tremen- hooks and combinations."

trident and a net.

powerful shoulders. Before the decline brought about by wild living his assets were speed and natural strength. "I sense the speed coming back," he said when interviewed last week. "Every day brings improvement. Even in the short spell I was in with McNeeley I threw too many wild punches. I wasn't happy. Now my timing is better. I'm getting through with the

whelm a conservative opponent, perhaps scorning the precepts of accuracy, the value of a stiff setting-up jab that D'Amato implanted. "What we've seen from Mike in the gym is tremendously exciting," Bright added. "He's got into a solid pattern of progress and will continue developing. It's usual to think of one fight at a time but that's not how we are looking at things. Mike hasn't

servers consider him to be of av- both men were brought on by dous shape, his torso widening A problem for Tyson is that trained specifically for Mathis erage technique but such a soft- the Cus D'Amato method of from narrow hips to broad, he is expected to utterly over- any more than he will for Bruno. The object is to make himself the complete heavyweight, able to batter out any-

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

TODAY Football tes not on pools couper 3.0 unless stated GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE Kettering v Famborough . Macclesfield v Gateshear SECOND ROUND

v Dss. Trind round replay: Furness v Reunds. ICBS LEASUE Premier Divisions Bishop's Stort-ford v Yesding: Cherisey v Molesey; Dubetic v Harow Borough; Enfeld v Yeoud; Hayes v Car-shalton; Hendon v Kingstonian; Purificet v Ayles-bury (1.45); St Albans v Bromley; Sutton Utd v Gryss; Watton & Hersham v Hirchin; Worthing v Boreham Wood. First Division: Abingtion Town v Borking Aldershot Town v Wolungham; Barton Rower's v Wembley; Bitensyn v Oxford City; Bognor Rega v Marker, Chestrant v Mad-embed: Le Hon Pernant v Besensoniae: Busy; dognor Hegs v Markin; Cheshain v Mand-neod; Leyton Pennant v Basingstoke; Rus-Manor v Berthomsted; Stames v Udondge; ame v Toomig & Macham; Whydeleyle v Hey-dge Swits. Second Dhistion: Barsted v venhoe; Canney Island v Dorlding; Edgwore ediror; Eghann v Ooler Row, Hemse Hemp ad v Saffron Waldom; Humashlord v Chonlorv castron (galent) v Coner rowl, (Partiel Ham)standstand v Saffron Walden; Hungarlord v Croydor; Leathertead v Cheshurz; Ware v Backret; Wender and v Chalfort & Peter, Third DiMelonc Camberley V Cove; Clapton v Hertford; Harlow v Wealdstone; Homehurch v Flachwel Heath; Knigstuny v Wingare & Finchley; Legyon v Hoshen; Kortiwood v Epsom & Ewel; Southalf v East Thurchet Windows & Pron v Montale

der Utzl; King's Lynn v Dudley; Moor Gre by; Nuneaton Borough v Solihuil Borou

loday's pools check-FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Arsenal v Chelsea...

Aston Villa v Covernov Newcastle v Exerton ... OPR v Bolton ... Sheffield Wed v Leeds West Ham v Southampton ... ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE

10 Barnsley v Chariton 13 Ipswich v Sheffield Utd 14 Milwall v Derby - Okham v Birmingham .

15 Portsmouth v Luton Chathern v Deal; Connchan v Herne Bay; Faver-sham v Beckenham; Folkestone Invicta v Can-terbury; Ramagate v Hythe; Tunbridge Wells v Dartford. League Cup second-ound replay; Greenwich Borough v Crockenhäl. UNIVER SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE Float DI-vision: Arundal v Ringmer, Burgess Hill v Pagham; Easthourne Town v Portlaid; Halaham V Calkwood; Horsham YMCA v Peageheven & Telscombe; Southwek v Haspodes; Stampo v Whitehawic Three Bridges v Crowborough; Wick-v I annexu.

v Largrey.

North WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Pirst Di-visions Blackpool Rovers v Midsgrove Athlet-ic; Burscaugh v Glossop North End; Bastwood Hantley v Chadderton: Holker Old Boys v Boo-tle; Mossley v Moine Road; Nentswich v Dar-wert: Rossendale v Prescot; St. Helens v Permits: Selford v Chrience; Steirmersdale v Fit-ton; Trafford v Newcestië Town.

uori, Trattord v Newcossile Town.
JEWSON Existeria LEAGUE Premier Divisione
Lowestoft v Havering; March v Harvitch; New-mariest v Heissenst; Soharn v Hadlegh; Stow-mariest v Green Yamouth; Sudoury Town v Felostowe; Sudbury Wanderers v Fakenham; Watton v Cactori; Wisbech v Woodbridgs; Wrox-hem v Tiptree.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE ed v Rustral Oysse millionna albanica-valt i Rustral Oysse millionna valteria v Badwell zugit. Hinckey Athletic v Bademare Steels, kynpersey vicera v Belenali Svetts; suny v Armitage: Pershore v Meg; Midlands, az Shepsined Oysterno v Starsford; Stoper-v Rocester, Industrial Reveleda Lengue managand millional desiration.

sowen Harriers.
HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES
LEAGUE Premier Division: Boston Town v Mirriess Blackstone; Coganhoe v Wootbon; Bynesbury v Northampton Spance; Long Buckly v
Desborough; Newport Pagnel v Bourne; Raunds v Holbeach; Stamford v Wailingstonush;
Stawarts and Lloyds Corby v St Neots; Stottold v Speking. GREAT NOLLS LEAGUE Premier Division: Rankend v Paulton; Samstaple v Bristol Manor

SECOND DIVISION ----- -- 19 Roomemouth v Stockhool 20 Bristol Rovers v Original Utili 21 Cardale v Walsali

26 Seanses v Surgey 27 Swindow Washem THIRD DIVISION

32 Colchester v Scuntticipe.

FEDERATION BREHERY NORTHERN LEAGUE FEDERATION BREMERY NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Billingham, Synthonia v Peterlec, Consert West Austens, Durham v Shidor, Eppleton v Bedington Terriers; Murton v Cuisboraugh; RfM Newcaste v Chester-le-Street; Seaham Red Star v Dunston; Tow Law v Fernyhit; Whitcham v Stockon; Whitoy v Crook. SMISHOFF RISH LEAGUE First Division: Boltmena v Bállyciana; Camet v Lame; Newry v Colerana; Ornagh v Destalery.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF RELAND Premier Division: Galvary v Sigo Rovers (7.0); University College Dublin v Deny City (7.30).

WELSH CUP Fourth round: Abenshoyth v Op-

WELSH CUP Fourth round: Abenstwish v Os-westry; Ournbran v Goyte; Llensundisid v Aber-geverny Thursdays; Porthredog v Llendrindod Wells; Ton Pentre v Barry; Inter Cardiff v Llen-drifto. LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Ludo v Flint; Cass-sws v Rhyl; Concept's Quay v Corney (2.30); Extended v Casmarton; Holywell v Briton Fer-ty; Llandiu v Bengor Coy. ry, Listenia V seingo Cay.

PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE-Brore Rangers v Cove Rangers; Forces Me-chanics v Coderhaudder, Huntly v Rothers Kel-th v Fort William; Lossemouth v Nam's County; Percenteed v Eigh City; Wick Academy v Buck-te Thistia.

RE TIRSUE.

AVON INSURANCE COMERNATION First Di-vision: Southimpton v Assenzi (at Merchwood). (2.30 unless stated)

UNDER-21 COUNTY CHARMONSHIP Northern Group 127 Northernberland U21, Cumbrie U21, 12-0) (at Newcostle

ELLS SCOTUSE LEAGLE

PRISE DIVISION

50 DURBAS V St. Liberstone

50 Durbas V St. Liberstone

52 Morten V Durbas Unit

53 Hamilton V Durbas Unit

54 St. Mirran V Stelebank SUN ALLIANCE COLTS COUNTY Finet: E Miclands Colts v Hertfordshire Colts (12.15) (at Twokenham).

MITER-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Munster v Leinster (at Musgrave Parit): Utster v Exites (at Belfast). Unster v Exiles (et Bethast).

SARALET CLIP Foarth round: Aberavon v Coentility: Aperave v Blackwood; Abertifiery v Henrily; Blarra v Abersynor; Bustin Wells v Fleur De Lys; Caroff fo Osicides: Caroff in six v Meestag Cettor; Cardigan v Neeth; Carmarthen Qurea v Bridgant; Carlin Chibur v Whistand; Gameliffeth v Newtridge; Giffach Goch v Crose Kryst Heol-Y-Cyw v Cowfordige; Llanegennech v Abergrennen; Mountain Ash v Yotzadganias; Newcaste Empl v Martin; Newcont v Turnder, Newport Sanacets v Tormawr, Penarth v Ebbv Valet; Pengraty v Glynnesit; Reschen v Lanett; Rhymriey v Nebour, Rumney v Pomypoot; South Welse; Police v Old Rhydans; Swensan v Tonby Lint; Tayasin v Unswent; Trenchy v Kidwell; Vardre v Gismorgan Whols; Yngeldu v Cit Penarthians; Yesral Rhonda v Llandovery. renthians; Ystraf Rhondde v Llandovery.
TENNENTS CHAMPRONSHIP (all 2.0)
TENNENTS CHAMPRONSHIP (all 2.0)
Premier League First Divisions: Heriots; FP
v Stiting County, Ragional League - East
Once: Boroughmur v Mussehungh; Currie v
Vestoorians; Haddington v Edinburgh Works;
Preston Lodge v Beggar, Ragional League East Twee Edinburgh Acads v Severts Mei
FP; Grangemouth v Corstorphine; Mricaldy v
Gordonana, Ragional League - SouthHamde v Gsat; Jad-Forest v Largholm; Kelso
v Peebles; Meirose v Selkik, Ragional
League - West: 175 KeMinade v Ayr;
Idimemode v Glasgow Acads; Wigtownshire v
Grangow Southarm.

CLUB MATCHES: Bedford v Barring (3.0);

- 55 Berwick v. Mostrose 56 Clyde v East File - Fortar v Stransaer. 57 Oues of the South v Student. - Stenbousenuir v Avr. ...

THEO DIVISION Brechin v Livingston 58 Complembeeth v Caledonian This - Queen's Park y Arbroath ... Ress County v Alloe ::::... TEMENTS SCOTTISH CUP

Albiou Rovers v Deve

Glendow Unit v Shanara (2.15) PA CARLING PREMIERSHIP ENDSLEIGH WSERRANCE LEAGUE +

Leicester City V Norwich City (\$10) Hit: Preston Grasehoppers v Huddemfield (2.15) Reading v Bearsgatoke; Richmond v Moseley (12.0); Russlyn Parkv Lydney (12.0); Sardal v Macclessied (2.15); Saracana v London Scottish (2.15); Wasefield v Safe; Walsall v High Wyoothie (2.15); Wasefield v Safe; Walsall v High Wyoothie (2.15); Wasefield v Safe; Walsall v High Wyoothie (2.15); Wasefield v Mortey (2.15); Waterfalo v Mortey (2.15); Whaterfalo v West Pieramhop; withoughon Park v Rughin; Worcester v Newbury.

Hockey DTZ MIDLAND INDOOR QUALIFYING ROUNDS HA CUP; Pjardaved SC, Wordester 9.30 - 6.0; Group A: Strumport, Bloastert, Warwick, North Staffs, Group B: Notderminster; Wednesbury, Khaisa, Shrewsbury, Group C: Droinwich, Carnock, John Player, Covenny A: North Wendelt, (Mye Forest Glades Arens, Not-derminster 9.30 - 6.0), Group D: Old Heleonans, Harborne, Notungham, Belper.
EAST RODOOR SUPER LEAGUE (Aldenham School 12.15 - 8.30) SI Albans, Chainsford, Spedints, Bedford, Old Lunchstrians, Redbridge

Baskethall TUP TROPHY sous-finel first leg: Worthing v Sheffield (8.0). Bullowesser 1246UE: Derby Sarm v Chester Jeta (8.0); Lelasser Riders v London Towers (7.30); Hernel Royals v Leopards (7.30); Harnes Vafley Tietas v Samingham Bullets (8.0). ice beckey

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Cardiff Device v Mitton Keynes Kings (6.15); Dustam Waspa v Sheffield Steelers (6.30); Stough Jess v Fite Pyers (6.30). First Division: Durnings Border Kings v Solfkull Berons (7.30); Gustöpref James v Billingham Bornbers (6.0); Murray/field Royals v Peterborough Praises (7.0); Pasisky Pirates v Chelmistori Chiefians (7.0); Pasisky Pirates v Chelmistori Chiefians (7.0); Telford Tigers v Bracknet Bees

Other sports Commonwealth light-middleweight Kevin Kelly (Aus, holder) v Chris (Leicester) (Institute for Sport, Certiff)

NG: Uncle Ben's Winter Challeng (Ponds Forse, She TOMORROW

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Dundsik v Shelbourne (6.15); Sharmock Rovers v St. Patrick's Athletic (2.15). Football

STONES CENTEMARY CHAMPIONSKIP-Bradford v Leeds (3.0); Halifac v Workington (3.0); London Broncos v Sheffield (3.0) (at Charlon Athletic), Odram v Wigan (3.0), First (3.0); LONSHIE CONTROL V Wigen (3.0). First Division: Feetingstone v Bastley (3.30); Selected v Rochdale (3.0); Welstelfeld v Hull (3.30); Whitehseld v Huddersfield (3.0); Second Division: Stamley v Highlaid (3.0); Second Division: Bramley v Highlaid (3.0); Doncaster v Chorley (2.0); Hull I/R v Swinton (3.15); Hunslet v Carlisle (3.30); York v Berrow (3.15).

Rugby Union
CIS DIVISIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHI
Midlands Semi-finals: Warwickshire
Staffurdshire (3.0) (at Rugby). UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP-Northern Group Size Lancashire U-21 v Chashire U-21 (2.15) for Fydo); Yorkshire U-21 v. Durham U-21 (2.15) for Wharledale), South West Pool One: Oxfortshipe U-21 v, Buckinghamshire U-21 (2.0) (or Banbury). TENNENTS

pitus Group winners. FAST INDOOR SUPER LEAGUE (ALC

Basketball BLIDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets v Donosster Panthers (5.0); Burnensham Bullets v Manchester Gants (6.0); London Leopards v Worthing Bears (7.0), ice bockey

Other sports

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Cardiff Devils v Humberside Hawks (6.15): Milton Keynes Kings v Fife Flyers (6.0): Newcastle Warriors v Notingham Parthers (6.30). First Division: Blackburn Hawks v Chemsford Chieffans (6.0): Durntines Border Vironga v Paisley Prattes (5.30); Guildford Flames v Bracknell Bees,

CLESTICANOSIC Stockumping Chemptonships Amptal.

CATTERICK

mon Joe.

1.20; 1. LORD DORCET (B Storey) 5-2 lar;
2. Old Ale 20-1; 3. Mihemaemies 50-1, 12
ram. Dist., rik. (J Chartion, Stocksfield). Yote:
62.90; £2.00, £7.80, £5.30. DF: £114.40.
63F: £48.58. Trice £133.20 (part won; pool of £80.69 carried invarrd to Haydock, 1.40 today). NF: Salman.

1.50: 1. JOYRIDER (Richard Guest) 4-8 lax;
2. Fryup Sathalite 9-2; 3. Withingste-sprincess 25-1. 7 rare. Sri-hd. 13. (Mass M Milligan, Middleham). Totae £1.30; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £4.40. CSP: £4.47.
2.20: 1. FORBEDDEN TOME (T Reed) 1-4

2.20: 1. FORBODEN TIME († Recd) 1-4 for; 2. Farmer's Hand 50-1; 3. Shuff Saov 9-1 6 ran. 4, 374. (f. Lurgo, Carustrestown), Totae £1.80: £1.00. £12.80. DF: £20.10. CSF: £10-28. NR: Shutten. 2.50: 1. TANSEEQ (D Syme) 20-1; 2. In Moment 9-2; 3. Little Tingtons 20-1, 13

3.20: 1. JUDICIAL FIELD (M Doyer) 13-8 (t fav; 2. Shellas Hillcrest 13-8 (t fav; 3. Rher Red 7-2. 4 cms. 2, 25. (N Tirider, Mai-Gradpot: not won (pool of £84.12 carted forward to Haydock today). Placepot: £377.60.

HEREFORD 12.40: 1. CRACK ON IG McCourt! 5-4 fav; 2. Whatbibob 2-1; 3. Petter's Bay 4-1; 13 ran, 14/2, 20. (P. Hobbs, Minehead). Tota: £2-30; £1-60, £1-10, £2-70. DP; £2-10, CSF; £5-10. Trio: £2-50. NRT: Denoting Bareloot, Furnitary, Pacific Power. No 4 Faraday was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not exp. Nr. (P. Marcheller, Pacific Power. No. 4 Faraday was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not exp. Nr. (P. Marcheller, Pacific Power. Pacific Power. Nr. (P. Marcheller, Pacific Power. Pacific Power. (P. Marcheller, Pacific Power. Pacific Power. (P. Marcheller, Pacific Power. Pacific Power. Pacific Power. (P. Marcheller, Pacific

Labe 1. Esouthers Exposures on n Progenith 10:11 fay; 2. Amend Express 9-2: 3. Blaze Of Oak 8:1, 16 ran. 5, 1%; (N Henderson, Lambourn), Total £1.60; £1.30, £2.70, £1.90. DF: £4.50, CSF: £8.82, fno: £32.60

1.40: 1. HIGHTOWN CAVALLER (I Harris) 7-2 fav. 2. Hutlin Mary Dolf 9-2; 3. brackinin 9-1. 13 rat. 9, 12. (R Hodges, Somerton). Tetra: £3.10; £3.10, £1.60, £3.80. DP: £18.50. CSF: £20.61. Tricast: £125.14. Tric. £58.00.

2.40: 1. ERLIKING (N Marry) 10-1; 2. Eulogy 9-2; 3. Tooy's Mist 4-1 fav. 16 ras. 9, 6. IS Melor. Swindon). Total £16.50; £4.80. £2.50, £2.20. DF. £23.00. CSP: £53.43, 760: £25.60.

25.50.
3.10: 1. CHURCH LAW (R Supple) 7-2:
2. Arctic Red 12-1; 3. Big Arthur 7-1. 15
ran. 85-40 fav Pice's Hill (6th). 11. 20. Mrs.
1. Taylor, Csipping Warden). Toese 55.10;
52.30, £2.00, £3.10. DF: £28.60. CSF:

dictably to the customary questions. He considers himself to be in excellent shape and to Sounded as though he was

Mathis has responded pre-

one he comes up against."

have Tyson's measure. "Mike doesn't scare me and you may

get a surprise," he said.

whistling past a graveyard.

RESULTS

12.50: 1. OLD HABITS (Mies P Robson) 3-1 jr tay, 2. Gone Averay 15-1; 3. Able Play-er 11-2, 12 ren. 3-1 jr tay Highend Park (4th), 9, 344; (1 Syr. 1hirsh), Totae: 53, 70; £1-40, 51-20, £1-30, Dr. 530-60, CSF, £48, 77, Tri-cest: £241.85, Trio: £26.60, NR: Roscom-

A Moment 9-2; 3. Itale Tracture 20-1: 2. In san. 5-2 for Winamartya Gri. 1, 1¼, (M Meagher, Ornslath). Tota: £2.2.0; £4.60. £2.40, £3.30. DF. £100.20. CSP. £108.66. Those £1,719.92. Tric £137.70 (per wor: pool of £159.05 carred forward to Haydock 1.40 today). NR: £107,

Mace 6: £78.48. Place 5: £34,14.

1.10: 1. EBULLIENT EQUINAME (M. A.

2.10: 1. DAWN CHANCE (A Ton) 12-1: 2. Fichs 16-1; 3. Mr President 11-2. 8 ran. 9-4 fav First Century (left), 6, det. (R Hodges, Somerton), Totar: £10.50; £1.40, £2.30, £2.10, Dr. £35.60, CSP: £148.05. Thosas: £1,064.30.

£50.25. Trio: £71.00. NR: Wally's Dream. No 12 Wally's Dream was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not apply. orders. Rule 4 does not apply.

3.40: 1. CORRIN 1811. (T Descombe) 51; 2. Hawadian Sam 7-2; 3. Ho-Joe 5-1. 9
ram. 3-1 fav Windward Anom (4th). 6, 1/2.
(R Hodges, Someron). Total: £8.50; £2.80,
£1.20, £1.10. Dr. £18.10. CSP. £23.79. Thcast £88.18. Thu: £28.90.
Jackpot: £34,047.40. Quadpot: not won
(pool of £60.21 camed forward to Haydock
today). Placeport £78.80.
Place 6: £112.19. Place 5: £94.21.

LINGFIELD 12.30: 1. SPENCER'S REVENGE (G Bardwell) 3-1 Jt fav; 2. Second Colours 4-

3.00: 1. ALMANIAMAN IN INC. 1.00: 1.00: 1.00: 1.1: 3. Owdbetts 9-1.13 ran. 100-30 lay Retender, 174. 1. Miss Can Kelleman. Tote: £6.20; £3.40, £7.30. erc; a. (1998 Peace 11-1; 3. Owdhelts 1. 13 ram. 100-30 lay Resender, 194. 1. 0. Gay Keisewayi, Totes: 58.20; 53.40, £7. 55.00, DF: £49.10, CSF: £54.29. Tics £411.02. Tics £130.10 (bart work pool £182.00 comed investor to temperate 1.40

1.30; 1. HIR NEVERMOND (S Whitworth) Tota: F180; £140, £110, £350, OF: £380. CSF: £5.49. Trio: £5.90. 2.00: 1. ARCTIC ROBANCER (S WHIDWORT) 4-1: 2. Six Clarks 8-1; 3. Blue Plyer 13-2.

8 can. 7-4 fav Horneland. 2, 3, (G LENS). Total £5.10; £2.00, £2.70, £2.10, DF: £46,70. CSF: £35.70. Tneast: £194.69. 2.30: 1. ACCOUNTANCY JEWEL (D WIGHT) ?-1; 2. Farmost 14-1; 3. Tains 20-1. 9 ras-?-1 fav Green Gern. 1, 7. (K McAutifie). Yote: £18.00: £2.00, £16.40, DF: £22.60. CSF: £91.79. Tho: £189.20 (part won; 500 of £194,60 carried forward to Haydock 1.40

rae 10-1; 3. Chez Catatae 3-1 Ev. 14 rae. 3½, ½, U Pearce). Tote: £27.30; £8.60, £2.40. DF: £58.90. CSF: £200,68. Tucast £705.64. Tuc: £218.60. 3,30; 1. FOUR OF SPADES (Amends

Sandest 6-1; 2. Quinal Martin 33-1; 3. Flold Of Vision 9-1. 13 ran, 7-4 tay Crystal Heights 0. Shird, 14:: (P Beans), Total 25,80; £1-50, £3.50; £2-20, DF: £53-90, CSF: £181-59. Incast; £1,630.64. Tito: £62.60. After a stematic impairy, the placings remained unablered. Oursidest not won more of £1-71.00 certained. quay, the placings remained unaffered at: not won (pool of £171,20 carried

Quidpot: Pac. Inches to Haydock towns. E678.60. Place 6: £400.65. Place 5: £276.79. Munthorpe f So Factual, the Nunthorpe and Cork and Orrery Stakes winner.

faces 15 rivals in the Group One Sprinters Stakes (6f) at Nakayama, Japan, tomorrow. Owned by Godulphin and trained in Dubai by Saced bin Suroor, So Factual will be ridden by the Frenchman Olivier Peslier. The son of Known Fact has not run since beating Ya Malak and Hever Golf Rose in the

े एक प्रोतिक हु स्थानस्था प्रतान कर स्थानिक प्रतान स्थानिक हुए हैं। क्षा प्रतान स्थानिक स्थानिक स्थानिक स्थानिक

حكدًا من الاحل

sport

Put faith in Padre's staying power

Racing

It should have been a day when the thrill of challenging for a £40,000 Ascot prize gripped Michael Hourigan with tension, but now the anxiety is all for the young champion who instead of galloping round the Berkshire course is clinging on to life at Hourigan's Limerick stable. Dorans Pride, last season's top staying hurdler, has suffered such a severe attack of colic that, at the age of six, his racing career is in doubt and his life imperilled.

The horse was found in a distressed state on Thursday and has since had two operations. "If he does survive, he will have a year off," Hourigan said, "and I am told that there is no reason why he should not be as

good as ever.
"He had a good night, with very little pain. If the next 24

would be hopeful that he will be back with us. There is nothing his stock usually stay more than two miles." Brooks said. "The more to be done now. We just have to sit and hope."

Without Dorans Pride, to-day's Long Walk Hurdle looks a far more open affair, as Charlie Brooks, trainer of one of the principals, Padre Mio, acknowledges. "We were going to take Padre Mio out of the race as Dorans Pride looked head and shoulders above the rest," Brooks said yesterday.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Unguided Missile (Ascot 1.55) NB: Challengar Du Luc (Ascot 12.15)

Now Brooks is set to experiment with Padre Mio (1.20), who was impressive when winning over two miles last time but is now tackling a distance in excess of three miles.

"We've no idea if he'll get the hours continue that way, we trip, but he's by The Parson and

question is 'did he look good enough to win a Champion Hurdle over two miles?'. If the answer is 'probably not', then we need to fish in deeper waters."

Couldnt be Better, Brooks's representative in the main chase of the day, the Betterware Cup, might also have benefited from

tarting-prices:

a weakened field but Rough Quest, the horse that followed him home in the Hennessy Gold Cup three weeks ago has been passed fit after suffering from a muscular problem in his quarters during the week. "I rode him myself on Thursday,"

Terry Casey, his trainer, said. "and he worked very well."

The Hennessy was a gruelling BETTERWARE CUP 10-YEAR-TALE 1985 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 Pate of the favorities: 2 F 6 1/F P F A 2 1 1/3 tagonists, Unguided Missile. finner's place in betting: 21 21 0 11 0 3 A 0 1 11 11-4 61 10-1 13-8 33-1 5-1 A 7-1 11-8 3-1 7 8 7 7 7 9 A 7 6 7 10 2 21 1 10 11 10 4 10 0 11 10 A 10 1 11 10 10 9 rofit or loss to £1 status: Fevourites -£3.32. Second Pavourites -£3.63 Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 44% hortest-priced winner: Young Hustler 11-8 (1993)

ongest-priced winner; Solideszrock 33-1 (1989) Top trainer: J Gifford - Door Letch (1985-86), Ballyhane (1988) Top Jockey: R Rowe - Door Latch (1985-86); C Llewellyn - Captain Dubble (1992), Young Hustler (1993)

Ney: A = Abandoned - frost; P = pulled-up; F = fell; UF = joint-favourites finished first and fell; <math>U3 = joint-favourites finished first and third; <math>J = joint-favourites. Race known as SGB Chase until 1992.

Better, particularly the latter after injury and has a more genwho has been raised 10lb by the handicapper for his success and is unlikely to be so effective over this track.

"He has a preference for racing left-handed, but has won at Ascot," Brooks said. "I'm more worried about the ground. I'll walk the course and if it's too fast he could still come out." Another of the leading pro-

has never won when travelling right-handed but there is stable confidence that he can adapt. "He was going well at righthanded Carlisle in the race

that had to be stopped and voided," Joanie Richards, wife of the horse's trainer, Gordon, said. "He's a progressive type and a strong, tough horse."

The strength of Unguided Missile (1.55) is one reason why Richard Dunwoody is in the saddle today to guide him through the hurly-burly rather

test and it might pay to overlook than the stable-jockey, Tony Rough Quest and Couldnt Be Dobbin, who has just returned tie re-introduction at Haydock. Richard has ridden him at

Cheltenham and Ayr so it won't to be a problem," Mrs Richards said. The presence of Dun-woody, who has had a terrific run in the big Saturday events this season, is rarely a problem.

Others to watch for on a fascinating card are Dark Honey (12.15), who was among the top staving hurdlers two seasons ago and is now carving his way as a novice chaser, Call Equiname (12.50), who is among this term's best novice hurdlers, and Thumbs Up (2.30), who may be able to reverse Newbury placings with Front Street now that he has a run under his belt.

Mysilv (3.00) will not be much of a price in the finale, but as John Spearing, who had hoped to run Eskimo Nel in the race, said: "She seems to have had the conditions of the race worked out just to suit her."

1.55: Not an event for numbers to get seemingly generous prices on some leading fancies having disappeared a few days ago. Those with 5-1 ante-post vouchers for UNGUIDED MISSILE will be feeling pleased with themselves. This seven-year-old looks well handicapped and has Richard Dunwoody in the saddle. Fitness doubts will make even those holding 4-1 slips for Rough Quest uneasy, however. Couldnt Be Better must run on a vastly different surface compared to his heavy-ground

12.50: Just 'N Ace, sure to sport a trimmer waistline than on his debut in a race here last month, will finish closer this time to the winner that day. STRONG PROMISE. But Kieran Gaule's mount hurdles with impressive fluency and will again be hard to beat. This will be tougher though with Call Equiname, from an in-form stable, in opposition. Diais and Reverend Brown are dark horses to keep an eye on.



tance. His display at Newcastle last time was formidable, but the trip was two miles. SWEET GLOW, in contrast, will certainly handle both trip and going on his lavourite track. He warmed up with a fair sixth at Cheltenham last week.

Hennessy success, leaving Young Bustler, well-suited by this going.

Stable lads stay on low pay With five hours overtime both sides took account of the

Stable lads' wages will rise by three per cent from February next year after a settlement on pay and conditions between trainers and the Stable Lads As-

But the most junior lad will still be taking home only £76.76 for a 40-hour, five-and-a-halfday working week. The minimum rate for even the most experienced lad will rise to just

every other weekend included, the consolidated rate will range from £85.40 to £183.37. Subsistence allowances will also

abroad will be unchanged. The increase, in line with inflation, is a drop from the 1995 settlement of three-and-a-half per cent and the five per cent increase of two years ago, but from the industry."

impact of falling prize money on training fees and working conditions. A statement said: "The SLA be adjusted but amounts for was concerned that a shortage

Sunday racing and travelling of staff could create an unacceptable burden which could encourage staff to leave the industry. This trend could accelerate if the National Lottery continues to draw money away 12.30 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,800 2m

1.20: Putty Road acts on fast ground but is likely to be at his best when the mud is flying. The question mark

2.05 HEATHYARDS ENGINEERING NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 2m

Jeassu, Hearts Are Wild, 8-1 Mizyan. 15-1 others								
3.05 MIDROADS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 2f								
1 125-062 VELEDA II (PR) (21) (D) Mis \$ Bramail B 11 13								
2 14PF3P BOLL WEEVE (234) (C) 0 Shenrood 9 11 11 M Richards								
3 5213-2U STRONG SOUND (1/4) P Creesprough 8 11 10								
4 42PP-PF MINT RED (9) J Legh 11 11 9B Posedi 5 220F1F SPARROW HALL (229) J Red Production D Byrne								
6 33155-3 MMEEROSH (10) (CD) P Westber 13 10 7								
7 15426-4 MO ICHI DO (23) (C) Mass S Whom 9 10 6 T Bley								
8 0013/54 TIM SOLDER (FR) (11) M Barraciough 8 10 0R Johnson (3) - 8 declared -								
- 5 DECREES -								

tum weght 10st. True handicap weight: Tim Soldier 9st 13th. NGC 8-2 Violento II 3-1 Brill Violenti 7-2 Strong Scornel 9-2 b

ish, 7-1 Spa	now Hall, 10-1 Mo Ichi Do, 12-1 others
3.35	CANNOCK CHEWICALS MARES STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,000 2m
	LA BELLA VILLA (29) N Toeston-Daves 5 11 11 JM Kelgfeley (7)
	BARONS VENTURE (12) J M Bradley 4 11 4Mr M Daily
	BELLE BARIONESS (189) J McConnoche 5 11 4
4 50	ENG VAL (19) B Praece 5 11 4 G Hogen (3)
5 . 0	COMMAPISHI (17) Mrs A Henry 6 11 4 Sophie Mitchell (5)
6 32	DECENT PENNY (35) Mrs M Reveley 6 11 4
	ETON MANOR (217) T Thomson Jones 4 11 4 6 Tormey (3)
8	JOY FOR LIFE R Scones 4 11 4 Mr M Rissell
	LUCIA FORTE (276) X Body 4 11 4 Magine (3)
	MANARD (24) R Dicion 4 11 4
ũ	MESP J D'Shea 4 11 4
	PARTY LADY (168) A J Wison 5 11 4 Chris Webb (5)
	POTTER'S GALE (11) D Nicholson 4 11 4
	Ri RA (14) R Holinshead 5 11 4 Miss S Sharratt
15	SINGENIG SCALLY W Clay 4 11 4
16 0-	WOSFLIL LAKE (268) A.) Wilson 4 11 ÷
	_ 16 declared

= 10 December - 10 December - 10 December - 10 December - 10-1 Lucia Forts. 14-1 Manard, Eton Manor, 16-1 Others

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None: LING-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Jammy's Fancy (1.30) sext 185m by HE'S Williams from Mariandeigh, Dev; Meant To Be (12.00) & Sect-oms (12.30) sext 184m by Lady Herries from Assymeting Pt. W Sussex. 1200 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL NOVICE HUR-

UTOXETER

HYPERION 12.00 Nahia 12.30 Serious 1.00 Jacob's Wife 1.30 Romalito 2.05 Garrison Comman-

der 2.35 Hearts Are Wild 3.05 Veleda II 3.35 GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places on Hurdles course). E Left-hand course. Run-in of 170yd.

Course is SE of town near B5017. Uncorter relively station (Derhy-Crewe hae) adjoins course. ADMESSION: Club £16 (OAPs £12);
Tattersalls £10 (OAPs £7); Course £3. CAR FARE: Free.

ᇉ		DLE (CLASS E) (DfV I) £2,800	2m
1	3362-P1	WIREN WARBLER (19) (D) Mrs. P Robeson 5 11 2	M Michards
2	533-044	BACKSAMESON (25)] OH 4 11 0	B Upton
3	0030-0	EL ROBIO (12) / Spearing 4 11 0	ادون کے
4.	0-PU	NARLECUM BAY (17) J Tuck 5 11 0	Lingue
5	٠.	LATE NONA Mas. H Krade 4 11 0	Fallen (S)
6	B-	1905 (39g) Banks # 11 0	
7	00-	MACS BERO (285) C South 5 11 0	منسط الا
8	. 3	MT RESIDLE 862 (9) K Balley 6 11 0	Library Land
9	PF-	NERHERCORE LAD (434) M (Minson 5 11.0)	
10	0	PYREESC VICTORY ELA) R Strongs 4 11.0	5 130es (8
11	QU586P-	RELAUED LAD (226)) Percock 6 11 0	R Bellow
12	OP-22	REVIOL (21) Mas N Macaulay 7 11 0	ichasca (S
13	PP	STRONG CLER (LG P Wegman 7 11 0	Foular (7)
14		WANTED CAN 1 FEBRUAR 4 11.0	D Dyrine
15		MESUAL TO BE Lady Harges 5 10 9	_E Harris
16	. 221/0F	NAPLA (14) (BP) Mass I S Dogle 5 10 9	Ситан (3)
		- 16 declared -	. • •

CATTERICK

HYPERION

12.25 Classic Crest 12.55 Emerald Charm 1.25 Nodform Wonder 1.55 Newhall Prince 2.25 in-

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

Left-hand course, undulating and sharp. Butt-in 240yds.

Course is NW of fown on A5138. Darlington station 14m. ADMISSION: Club 510; Tentersuls 56; Course 52 (under 16s free
into all enclosures). CAE PAEE: Members 52, remainder free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE FUNNERS: Andrelot (1.25), Stately Home (2.25) & Illeon (1.55) have been sent 257 miles by P Bowen from Haver-fordwest, Dyfed.

12.25 PICTON "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 2m 3f

12.55 ST PAULS MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 3f

- 10 doctored -SETTER: 11.4 Morning in May, 7-2 Fell Shilling, 4-1 Greenfold Mesor, 9-2 Croften Late, 6-1 Emerald Chana, 6-1 Methodby Said, 16-1 others

1.25 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 3m 11 110yds

gletonian 2.55 Iffeee 3.25 Brandy Cross

- 16 decianed -BETUME: 3-1 Honey Bun, 7-2 Serions, 5-1 Transatile, 6-1 Moonlight Air, 10-1 Ethuriste, Ela Man Hown, Swiss Mountain, 12-1 others 1.00 EVANS HALSHAW NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 56410-3 BMRTON SANEA (48) S Brouletaw 6 11 0... 36031-0 Heal LOW (24) W Lonis 7 11 0 ... 03414-3 LACOR'S WRE (24) P Webber 5 10 9 ... 6554-6 SENSE OF WALLE (22) I South 5 10 9 ...

12 1F04-3P DOMBNE (16) (8F) K Balley 7 10 11.....

					_			
. :	86	TRE 48.	Jacob's Ville,	3-1 Habil	on, 61 B	erica Sant	a, 7-1 Seus	• 0f
_3	W	36 1	23.4			1		
	٠.	7						٠
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٠.	1		MON, ME 4540					
	2		HUPDOWN B					
	`З	00000-1P	BORRESMORE	E FLASH ((名) (の) (配	Beadley 71	18. <i>R</i> Fea	œŧ
	4	840-242	ROMALITO (3	SR M Blams	need 5 11 !	5	واعتا الأري	rds.
	5		FOX ON THE					
	ě		MEGAMUNC					
	7		ROSIE-B (12)				D Char	=

1.55 ST PETERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

21/F325 - JUST FRANKIE (330) (ID) No. M Revoley 11 11 11.8 Lee (3) 21/F03 No. S No. (2) (A) T Curitors 10 11 9 - Configure 4045-11 STROME APPENANT (23) (5) (6) (7) I Creston 10 11 5 J. S Starry 03-2112 NEWBALL PROMCE (23) (7) (87) A Streem 7 10 1 ... A S Sandia

2.55 GELING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m 1f 110yds

3.25 CATTERICK INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

22' BALMERPOCH (978) M H Essenby 5 11 A ______ \$ Lee (3)
BRANDY CROSS J H Johnson 6 11 A ______ T J Mangley (3)
CELTIC MEE A Thomson 6 11 A ______ T J Mangley (3)
CELTIC MEE A Thomson 6 11 A _____ T J Mangley (3)
CHING MEE A THOMSON T J A _____ E Callenghen (7)
3 CONDRINANT (51) Meson Were 5 11 A ____ D J Kentingth (5)
43 HEISELAND SPIN (35) (85) Was M Reveloy 4 11 A __R Henring

CERCULATION (7) (D) D McCam 9 10 0...... - 5 declared -

	HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 2m
Powell	1 302521 LORD GYLLENE (NZ) (R1) S Brookstaw 7 12 0 Relition
· runce	2 1265/5F MARRIAN (S) / Spenns 7 11 12
-1 Moonlight Air,	3 24505-P HANGOVER (S) R Lee 9 11 1
thers	4 00-2313 EAST HOUSTON (22) 13 (Theil 6 11 1 A Rocke (3)
	5 PSP FS3 FLAPIACK (AD (11) N Twiston-Danes 6 11 O T Junks
405 101 405	6 1534-PU FOX CHAPEL (2) R Judies 8 11 0
ASE (CLASS	7 PSF-SP2 PROZE MARCH (S) J Fuck 6 1D 13
	8 202-F GARSESON CONSEQUEDER (BIO) (SF) A Turnet 6 10 11 LB Powell
Reillen	9 P334-21 RPARGE BUSU (25) J King 8 10 6
T Janks	10 P/P-6P DORFONG RAINGER (111) Mess H Kright 10 10 0R Formant
R Bellanny	11 3-03344 ON THE TOTA (22) F Light 9 10 0
R Johnston (3)	- <u>11 declared</u> -
	Minimum: 10st. True in cap weights: Durking Ranger Sat 7th, On The Year Sat 5th.
da, 7-1 Sense Of	RETING: 11-4 Rhage Bles, 7-2 Lord Gylleno, 4-1 Garrison Compander,
	6-1 Repjeck Lad, 7-1 Price Metch, 10-1 Jerrush, 14-1 others
11.	
HANDICAP	· FA AND UNDERTON VALICUAL DESTRUCTOR C
	2.35 HOUSITION VAUGHAN HANDICAP HURDLE
km 110yds	(CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110yds
B Powell	1 /111-UA BAYROUGE (37) EEP Mas M Readey 7 12 0
R Johnson (3)	2 FORGIP- MIZIAN (329) (0) J Barris 7 11 3
	2 FORS1P MEZON (S28) (D) J Senis 7 11 3 S Keletrier 3 P-22232 TEEN JAY (21) R Strongs 5 10 12 R Strongs
118.2 Ferrest	2 FORGUP MEZVAN (328) (0) J Barris 7 11 3 S Kelgitiley 3 P.22232 IDEN MY (31) R Strongs 5 10 12 R Strongs 4 100-630 GOLDEN ARROW (14) I Betting 4 10 11 B Powell
118.8 Ferrest	2 FOP(31P MEZYAN (329) (0) J Banto 7 11 3 Skeightfoy 3 P.22232 TEEN ANY (32) F. Stronge 5 30 12 R. Stronge 4 100-530 SOLDEN ARROW (14) B being 4 10 11 Brown 5 OP(314-6 JEASSU (150) A 1985 no 12 10 9 T Junios
118.8 Ferrest	2 FORSIP- MEZYAN (329) (0) J Bants 7 11 3 S Neightley 3 P. 22232 TEEN ANY (32) F Storage 5 10 12 R Stronge 4 100-530 GOLDEN ARROW (14) Ebsting 4 10 11 B Powell 5 OP614-6 JEASSU (182) (20) A / Wishn 12 10 9 T Jeniss 6 124-114 NARRE (22) J Marke 4 10 0 T Sery
118.8 Ferrent	2 FOP(31P MEZYAN (329) (0) J Banto 7 11 3 Skeightfoy 3 P.22232 TEEN ANY (32) F. Stronge 5 30 12 R. Stronge 4 100-530 SOLDEN ARROW (14) B being 4 10 11 Brown 5 OP(314-6 JEASSU (150) A 1985 no 12 10 9 T Junios
118.8 Ferrest	2 FORSIP- MEZYAN (329) (0) J Bants 7 11 3 S Neightley 3 P. 22232 TEEN ANY (32) F Storage 5 10 12 R Stronge 4 100-530 GOLDEN ARROW (14) Ebsting 4 10 11 B Powell 5 OP614-6 JEASSU (182) (20) A / Wishn 12 10 9 T Jeniss 6 124-114 NARRE (22) J Marke 4 10 0 T Sery

HAYDOCK

HYPERION 12.10 DOMAPPEL (nap) 12.40 Epidos 1.10 Strong Medicine 1.40 Albernine 2.10 Gold Cap 2.40 Lans-borough 3.10 King Lucifer 3.40 Come On Penny

Euch-hand course with drop fences and nun-in of two furiones.

■ Course is or junction of A/80 and M6. Newton station 2m. AD-MESSON: Courty Sand 3/6; Transmolin-55! Newton Stand 4/6 (OAPs half-price in Taitermells and Newton Stand). CAR PARE: Prec.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Kultuk (1.40) won here on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Vintage Taittinger (12.10) & First Bite (12.40) have been sent 247 miles by T Dyer from Inver-2.25 AMPLEFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m

1	2 10	HINDLEY GREEN NOVICE (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,000 3Y	HURDLE
		'.! (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,000 3Y	Ծ 2m
1	16	CRNCUSA (23) (0) (85) / Made: 11 4	T Bay
2	0	ABBNOER (9) Mess M Rowderns 10 12	Gary Lycox
3	0	BARTON HEIGHTS (21) Mrs M Reveloy 10 12	P Niven
4	0	BEAU MUTELOT (9) Miss M Miligan 10 12	Richard Guest
5		DALLY BOY (9) M. H Easterby 10 12	
6	0	DANCE KING (9) R Hans 10 12	Y Saibb
7	5	DOMMPPEL (8) Mrs. J Cect 10 12	
8		FALSTING P Hobbs 10 12	
9	4D	GENERAL LEADER (22) P Marphy 10 12	
10		MARCHANT MING M Harrysond 10 12	
11		NESSUN DORO S Mellor 10 12	
12	45	NORDIC SINGEZE (SI) (SF) A Basky 10 12	
13		NORTHERN CHARMER E Alston 10 12T	
14	F	SELVER SLEEVE (6) M Hammond 10 12	从 Debbin
15		SOLUTIUM M Ppe 10 12	
16		SPANSH STEPS (32) M W Easterby 10 12	
17	0	VENTROSE TAITTINGER (21) T Dyer 10 12	
18		CARGLAGARY N Bycont 10 7	
19		CURLIN CAPER (18) T Watson 10 7	
20	0	NEW ERRORAL (65) M H Easterby 10 7	F Leahy (3)
		- 20 declared -	
BEI	NE 3-1	Sciation, 4-1 Documentel, 9-2 Daily Boy, 8-1	Cirecuta, 12-
110	nger, No	rdic Breeze, 14-1 others	

12.40 HINDLEY GREEN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,000 3YO 2m

MENI-LOU-AND Miss H lengts 10 12 32 MR LOURY (43) L Bereit 10 12 32 ARE ADVISOR OF THE EXECUTE OF THE CONTROL AND HEADERS OF THE CONTROL AND THE CONTROL AND

1.10 BOSTON PIT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 2m 4f

1.40 WIDNES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m

23110-0 GOLDEN HELLO (14) (D) M H Easterby 4 11 10 _____ I Wyer

112-000 WHITE WILLOW (14) (D) M M Receips 6 11 10 _____ P Nove

112-75-3 M MYAM (14) (D) D Nichols 5 11 8 _____ S Meant

1272-5 3 M MYAM (14) (D) D Nichols 5 11 8 _____ S Meant

24-2011 KANDA (7) (CD) J Carr 4 11 2 ______ F Leaby (3)

24-2011 KANDA (7) (CD) J Carr 4 11 2 ______ F Leaby (3)

24-2011 KANDA (7) (CD) J Carr 4 11 2 ______ F Leaby (3)

24-2011 KANDA (7) (CD) J Carr 4 11 2 ______ F Leaby (3)

24-2011 KANDA (15) (CD) M S J Carl 6 11 1 ______ T Kand

2045-P ROMAN QUEST (14) (D) N Gaselee 6 11 0 _____ D Gallegher

3112-62 LITTLE HOUNEY (14) (D) A Charlan 8 11 0 _____ A Dobbin

4-05212 GELEKITE (21) (D) (BF) C Marn 4 10 13 _Merudach Kelly (7)

1512-40 MMINNET (15) (CD) H Manual 4 10 11 _____ M Perrett

2 25F-135 SQUERE YORK (42) (D) Ms 1 Mapply 5 10 10 ____ M Masslan

1 1200- BY MERRY DANCER (374) (D) 10 Nel 5 10 0 ____ M Meccant

4-405-1 FAIR AND FANCY (10) (D) Mes M Melligen 4 10 3 ____ R Quest

5 0013-2 MUTHE FRELD (21) (D) J FECCEDIC 6 10 2 _____ M Doyler

5 26F-1 FAIR AND FANCY (10) (D) Mes M Melligen 4 10 0 _____ M Mellonny

7 / 106-1/ QUE SLIMBERDEE (554) (D) A Carrol 7 10 0 _____ R Dowles

8 2-12 MR DEWINDE (13) (D) A Whitens 4 10 0 _____ M Mellonny

18 declared --
Animum weight 10st 7 ne hardings weight M Dewices 9st 10th.

ETTRIC 6-1 Makek, 7-1 Gelberte, 9-4 Figh And Fancy, 10-1 Frieldey, Ut-

		ght 10st. True handroop weeght air Devicus 981 1065.			
Æ	ETTRIC 8-1 Kaltak, 7-1 Celibate, 8-1 Febrand Fascy, 10-1 Frickley, Lit-				
ie	Bromles	Native Field, 12-1 Golden Helio, 14-1 others			
_		(E004) 1 x22, 11-1 00000 - 1020, 2-1 02100			
		ST HELENS HANDWOAD CHASE ICLASS RI			
ľ	2.10	SI INTERIOR INTERIOR CONTROL (OCUMO D)			
L		ST HELENS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 4m 110yds			
		INTO THE RED (15) J White 11 11 7			
į		60LD CAP (15) P Hotos 10 11 7			
•		ARTHURYS MINISTREL (25) D Nicholson 8 11 5 W Marston			
ļ	241-253	SILVER STICK (14) W W Exterby 8 11 2			
,	R151.F5	MR FLANAGAN (16) (BF) C Brooks 9 10 13 D Gollagher			
j	3PP4/-11	1964 PADRE (21) FrzGerad 9 10 9 16 Dwyer			
ř	665/PP1	STURRANG STUFF (9) T George 10 10 6 P Novem			
		- 7 declared -			
Ł	ETTING: 7-4 High Padre, 7-2 Arthor's Minstrel, 5-1 Silver Stick, Stun-				
'n	ing Stuff, 7-1 leto The Red, 12-1 Mr Flessger, 14-1 Gold Cap				
	3 40	EBF NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS			
4	440	D) £4,000 added 2m			

	mil sent 1-7 mil int une 15-7 m sandari 14-7 een och				
2	2.40	EBF NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m			
1	23-2111	SECTLY DASHING (14) (0) N. H Easterby 4 11 10 Wyer			
2	QF-21	LANSSBOROUGH (23) G Richards 5 11 5			
3		CAMERA MAN N Hendeson 5 11 0			
4		CRITIC GRANT L Lungs 5 11 0LOTHers			
5	22.	CIRCUS LINE (315) M W Easterly & 11 D W Marsing			
6	_	CORSTON JOHER L Lungo 5 11 0T Reed			
ž	624	FREATS, IQNOMS (760) T George 5 11 0Peter Hobbs			
ġ		HANGING CROVE (15) P Number 5 11 0			
9		HIGHBEATH (24) Mis M Raveley 4 11 0			
10		LANCE ARMSTRONG Mrs M McCourt 5 11 0 & McCourt			
īī	th.A	MONYMAN (16) M Herrmond 5 11 0Mr C Bonner (3)			
12	0.00	SHANNON LAD (49) A Carrol 5 11 0R Davis			
13		THE NALIGHTY VICAR (261) 5 Meloy 5 11 0			
14	ō	THE WAYWARD BISHOP (24) D Gencotic 6 11 0 D Leaky			
15		THE RESDAY NIGHT (232) J FigSerald 4 11 0M Dayer			
16		WELD WEST WIND (38) Mes, H Kright 5 11 0 F Tidey			
17		OLD BETSY (17) Mr. 5 Sman 5 10 9 McGrads (7)			
18		SNI PATH (201) N Boook 6 10 9 D Tomler (7)			
		- 18 declared -			
RET	TRIC 2.1	Skepty Dashing, 7-2 Lansborough, 6-1 Wild West Wind, 8-			
	PETITION OF SENSO PROPERTY THE PERIOD OF A PETITION AND ADDRESS OF THE PETITION ADDRESS OF THE PETITION AND ADDRESS OF THE PETITION ADDRESS OF THE				

1 Camera Man, 12-1 Chrons Line, Highbeath, 14-1 others 3.10 SOUTHPORT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f

- 4 declared -BETTeNC: 8-11 King Localer, 7-4 Spanish Light, 5-1 Wise Advice, 25-1 Challe 3.40 THELWALL STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT

	KACE (CLASS II) ZZUUU ZIII	
1	BLISTER BOB (21) Mrs J Phrest 5 11 11	S Kanti (
15	OATTABA (18) W McKeown 5 11 11	A Stando
m	COME ON PERMY (12) D Generalia 4 11 6	اوفيا وD
	BALLYALUA CASTLE (280) R Ferer 6 11 4	
	COSA FUAIR K Bairy 5 11 4	
2	GLAMANGELTIZ (38) P Deston 5 11 4	
-	GONE ASHORE !! Barnes 4 11 4	
	CREAT GABLE D Motion 4 11 4	
2	HARLEOURN CHORUS (17) J Old 5 11 4	T Grantin
	KALADROSS (19) W Jenis 4 11 4	
œ.	MAJOR SIOUK (40) Mrs S Smith 4 11 4 J	ب معاصول برد. معال احدادا
02	MARSIN DE PORRES M POE 5 11 4	
	NOOSA SOUND Liurgo 5 11 4	
	OUT BY NIGHT G M Moore 4 11 4	
	PALOSAGO N Pipe 5 11 4	
	PARADE RACER P Mustry 4 11 4	Y Mar
40	SCHAPRIZADIOSER (19) N Transact Daves 5 11 4	
	SWANDISTER L Lungo 5 11 4	LV no
	THE HEAT WALTE Livings 4 11 4	1 associate (
	BOWLAND PARK E Alston 4 10 13	ALCOUNDS (

ASCOT

12.15 Dark Honey

HYPERION 1.55 Unguided Missile (nb) 2.30 Thumbs Up 12.50 Strong Promise

1.20 Sweet Glow 3.00 Strawberry Angel GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places)

Right-hand course with testing upfull finish.

Right-hand course with testing upfull finish.

Course is nr junction of A'253 and A'353. Sation adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 516 (2014) years, half prite; Grandstand & Paddock 510; Silver Ring 53. CAR PARE: No's 1, 2 & 3 2 1, remainder free.

All races

**LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe = 16 wanners from 68 runners gives a success ratio of 22.1% and a profit to a 51 level stake of 511.7%; N Twiston-Davies = 15 winners, 82 runners, 18.7%, +516.21; J Gifford = 14 winners, 110 runners, 12.7%, 536.5%; O Sherwood = 13 winners, 54 runners, 510.511.67, 521.47.

**LEADING JOCKETS J Osborne = 20 wins, 163 rdes, 29.1%, +5 (2.83); R Danwoody = 16 wins, 102 rdes, 15.7%, 540.61; A Magaire = 14 wins, 71 rdes, 18.9%, -512.31; M A Pitzgerald = 13 wins, 57 rdes, 12.4%, +521.5%.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Unguided Minstile (1.55) has been sent 288 rules by G Richards from Greystoke, Cumbria.

	12.15	NOEL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £17,500 added 2m 3f 110yds
1	60-1311	CUMERRAN CHALLENGE (14) (C) (Cumbran Industrals) M H Essenty 6 11 10R Garrith
2	1F1231	LINDEN'S LOTTO (28) (D) (Crocletts Racing Out): J White 6 11 10
3	51125/-1	DARK HONEY (15) (Roger Szyen 5 Dow 10 11 7 R Darwood)
4	1231 21	CHALLENGER OU LUC (FR) (10) U & J Securius Limitedi M Pipe 5 11 3 . D Bridgiates
5	211906	CONUS A CALL (238) (T Bertleto and Yo W Brown) J Grifford 5 11 3P Wide
6		GO BALLISTIC (21) Wrs B J Lockharu J O'Shea 6 11 3 A Rizgerald
7	0043/-15	PERTSWOOD (16) -Perer Tapini M Channon 7 11 3

	[12.50 MITTE GROUP KENNEL GATE NOVICE HURDLE BBC1 (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £12,500 2m 110yds		
ı	1	42:1021	CALL EXHAUSE (15) (D) (M Coburn, P N Barber, C Levies) P Notrolls 5 11 4 A P McCoy	
ļ	2	21-1214	SPEEDWELL PRINCE (35) (CD) (Ear Follow Pisho) N Twiston-Dates 5 11 4 . C Unwellyn	
ı	3	0.5-151	STRONG PROMISE (28) (CD) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 4 11 4 K Gamle	
ļ	2	U-33	DIAIS (FR) (S) (SF) (T Long: J Jenkins 6 11 () A Magaine	
ı	5	57111	FONDAMEROUGE (\$36) (Mrs Cavin V Topier) C Brooks 5 11 0	
ı	6		AUST W ACE (28) (Mrs. Joseph Abensur) J Gallang - 11 ()	
i	17	30-F4	REVEREND BROWN (15) U Paimer-Brown) U Sherwood 5 11 0	
ı	8	0	BUZZARDS HALL (10) (D C G Cooper M Chaoman 5 10 9	
i	9		LALINOI (315) (White Horse Racing Lat) D Baworth 4 10 9P Holley	
	10		PARSONS INNOCK (188) (Dock House Racins) R Rove 5 10 9	

— 10 declared —
ETTINI2: 5-2 Call Equiname, 3-1 Speedwell Prince, 4-1 Strong Promise, 7-1 Ojais, Reverand Brown,
B-1 Fortainerouge, 15-1 Lulindi, 20-1 others
1994: Secure Not 70-5 11-7 I Osbore 10-11 to Shersbod; 8 ran
FORM GUIDE
CALL EQUINAME is 7th worse off with Speedwell Prince than when beating from half a
length at Chepstow on 30 September, but finished a dozen lengths in front or the
when they were second and fourth behind Manoys Martino at Cheltenham last month.
They meet on the same terms here. Call Equiname ran leady that day and, chaftpened up
to the first time behinder, canne home by four lengths at Santourn law weeks and levels as a They meet on the same terms here. Call Equiname ran izoly that day and, charpened up to the first-time bulnices, came home by four lengths at Sandown how weeks ago, fixer-errend Brown 26 lengths back in fourthi. Strong Promise rates the main threat, having scored at Towcester in October and made all for an impressive victory over course and distance four weeks ago, though in between finishing unplaced behind Crition Beat at Newbury. Charlie Brooks's insh acquisition Fontalizerouge won three of his sox rurs in bumpers last season for Adam O'Bren's yard and is an interesting hurding recruit. French import pale has shaped well enough in finishing third in both starts this term to suggest he will be writing, though probably in lesser company.

Ì	[L 2 0	LONG WALK HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £40,000 added 3m 1f 110yds	BBC1
	1		ADMERAL'S WELL (14) (C) (A D Spence: R Alehust 5 11 7	
	2	2PP4-65	BELVEDERIAN (28) (Dr A.) F O'Reilly: M. Morris Oni S 11 7	
	3	612-111	CORNET (44) (5 J O'Sulmen) A O'Brien (I/O 5 11 7	R Durmood
	4	21FP-25	GILLAN COVE #80 (Forum Racing) R Alner 6 11 7	براندهار \$
	5	12300-2	ISLAND JEWEL (21) (A! F Cartwrett) J Bosley 7 11 7	M Bosle
	6		MORLEY STREET (29) (C) (Michael Jackson Biopostock) G Baiong 11 1	
	7		NON VINTAGE (21) (C) (Alan Mann) M Chapman - 11 7	
-	8		PADRE MIO (21) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 7 11 7	
1	ō		PUTTY ROAD (25) (BF) (Lacy Herrs) D Nicholson 5 11 7	
1			SEVER WEDGE (USA) (42) (C) (E S & W V Robus) () Sterwood 4 11 7	
			SWEET GLOW OTO (B) (C) M/rs Mantyn Fargrother M Proc 8 11 7	
	1.	23069-4	TOP SPM (21) (C) (Mrs Etza Long) J Jerlens 6 11 7	
- 1	_		- 12 declared -	
	£Ε	TTING: 9-4	Putty Stord, 3-1 Padre Mio, 6-1 Corket, 7-1 Sweet Glow, Island J	ewel. 8-1 GBla
			Fedde, 10-1 Behvederiss, Morley Street, 12-1 Admiral's Well, 16-1	

FORM GUIDE

1994: Hebridean 7 11 7 A Magure 100-30 (0 Nicrolson) 6 ren FORM GUIDE.

This can go to CORIGET, Aidan O'Brien's five-year-old landed a bumper and two hundle races last season and is undefeated after three outings this term at Naven, Weidford and Gowran Park and has gone up nearly two stone in the ratings. This is by far Cortect's toughest test to date and his stamma has to be taken on mist but Richard Durwoody is booked. Putty Road, who used to be trained by O'Brien, won two bumpers and four hundle races in 1994-95, including the Sun Atlance at the Cheherham Festival and he wound up with an Airmee third betind Tervet. Although looking in need of the race and racing over an inadequate distance, Pruty Road stamd at 11-8 on at Cheherham and vas beaten three lengths by Chief's Song, who followed up by taking the 12-numer William Hill Handicap Huntle at Sandown. Sure to have benefited from their outing and bleely to appreciate this trip, he looks sure to go close. Sweet Glow has won four three-milers here and he took the 30-numer Ascot Stakes under Cash Asmussen loss year after lying only 1-8th entering the short straight. He will be straighter for his opening south behand Berlar Times Ahead when shouldering 11st 10th at Cheherham and, with a 12th advantage, should reverse the form with Gilliam Cove (fifth). Peatre Millo with the length third, Non Vintage, who was 24th wrong in the weights that day. Padre Millo will not be far away if he lasts home, Street has scored three times here at shorter distances. He ran well when they to Large Action here on his return and will be stamper for the run, as will Silver Wedge as a result of his timed to Jibber The Hubber at Chepstow so weeks ago.

Selection: CORRET.

	1.55	BETTERWARE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) BBC1 £30,000 added 3m 110yds
l 1	2512.21	YOUNG HUSTLER (28) (CD) (Gavn MacEchem) N Twiston-Davies 8 12 0 C Lieuwillym
12	210P-11	COULDN'T BE BETTER (21) (CD) (R A B White) C Brooks 8 11 8
3	6252P0-	RIVERSIDE 90Y (252) (Dr. (Bagove Parmersto): M Pipe 12 11 1
4	3211-72	ROUGH QUEST (21) JA T A Wates) T Casey 9 11 0
5		SETON ARBEY (28) (D) (G A Hubbard) G Hubbard 10 10 B
6		UNGUIDED MISSRE (14) (D) (BF) (O E Hamsoni G Richards 7 10 8
7	121-139	UNBIOLY ALLUMICE (8) (D) (Mrs. Sharon C Nelson) M Bailey 8 10 4 J Coborne
8	11/12-44	GENA CHISTAGE (B) (C) (D) (Mrs S A Scott) N Twiston-Davies 9 10 0 A Magaire
9	1P156-1	YORKSHIRE GALE (B) (D) (Bill Naylor) J Gifford 9 10 D (Sev
ı		- 9 declared -
15		4. SOM To a boundary and the Child Considers Care 15th Made has Dale for 15th

Minimum weight: 10st. True handscap weight: Ghia Encurings 9st 11b, Yorishwe Gale 9st 9tb.
BETTHES: 11-4 Couldnt Bis Better, Rough Quest, Unguided Hissile, 5-1 Young Hustler, 6-1 Yorkshire Gale, 20-1 Unholy Alience, 3-1 Reverside Boy, 40-1 Gine Gneutaigh, 66-1 Sixton Abbey
1994: Raymylette 7 10 9 M Grogorald 3-1 (N Henderson) 8 ran
FORM GUIDE

1994: Raymylette / 10 9 M Hoggeto > 1 in increasion 8 ran FORM GUDE

Rough Quest takes his chance, raying recovered from a recurrence of musicular problems which have plagued him throughout his career. Beaten 14 lengths by Couldint Bee Better in the Hennessy, Rough Quest is only 90 better of but his cause was hardly helped by him pulling too hard and malong a lot of the running until headed nearing the lest. UN
GUNDED MISSILE might well beat them both. Gorton Richards' seven-year-old lacks the
expenence of the first two home in the Hennessy but he usually jumps well and was a
useful nouse in 1994-95 with victiones over the tough Haydock tences and at Wetherby
and Ary, where he beat Brief Gale 11 lengths. He was in fourth place when he topolog
over four out in the Sun Albance Chase from by Brief Gale) at the Chettenham Festival.
Unguided Missile beat a below-per Scotton Banks, his only inst, at Chettenham on his
return and was not disgraced in defeat when finding to Stregone a length too good under a helty weight on a neturn to Wetherby a fortnight ago. Young Russter, lest of five
finishers to Raymylette in this 12 mornths ago when cornying 12st, comes hare in good
heart after his Auttree trumph four weeks ago but is on the same weight today. Yorkshibe Gale won in good style at Cheltenham on his reappearance but a 5to outside the
randisap proper, even with a 5to penalty.

1	[2	2.30	PROGRECKE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) 21A,000 8006 2m
ł	1		UNCLE BRIVE (252) (CD) (Laby Linyo Webber) / Rodersic 10 11 12
ı	2	2/1223-	MARTINE'S LAMP (254) (D) (& Mrs F C Welch) D Nationson & 11 6
ı	3	431354	YOUNG SHUBERT (228) (CD) (Die Racing Club) O Sherwood 11 11 5 A McCarti
ı	4		TRANSS UP (21) (D) (Michael Buckley) N Handerson 9 11 5
			HIGH BARON (315) (D) (Mess C A James) R Hooges 8 11 0
	6		AROUND THE HORSE (22) (D) (Pel-mel Parmers) I Gotom 8 10 12
ı	7	165/1-11	FRONT STREET (21) (D) (Mis Jean R Bestop) S Sherwood 6 10 1
ı	B	03512 U	YOUNG ALFE (14) (D) (J F Paniero J Panieri 10 10 0P Hole

Minmum weight: 10st. True runniump weight: Young Mile 7s 8th.

BETTING: 7-4 Front Street, 100-30 Marita's Lamp, 5-1 Around The Horn, High Baron, 7-1 Th

Up, 8-1 thinde Erniet, 20-7 Young Smight, 150-1 Young Allia

1994: Nater 6 11 10 J Ostome 9-4 (5 Crustom 4 am

up, 6-1 timber Ermer, 20-1 trong sampling, 190-1 whose value
1994; Nietz 6 11. 10 / Ochorne 9-4 (5 Christiani 4 min
PORM GUIDE
FRONT STREET, robbed of a good chance of stretching his unbeaten sequence this season to three when Chethenhem was trozen off a week, ago, again has fine prospects here.
Successful on his femong bow et Wincenton in February on his final appearance lest term,
Front Street beat Young Pokey 20 tenghs at Stratford on his return and essaly defeated
Gales Cavaler at Newbury, where Thumbes Up (7th before off) finished a 16-length last of
Gour, Front Street is 7th higher but shoulders a mere 10st 11b and will again have the assistance of Jame Osborne, who was in the saudic at Wincanton and Newbury. Under Ernile.
Mertin's Lamp, Young Shugfit and High Barton are all at a disadvantage with Front Street
in that they have yet to race time season and they all have to give him weight, Pick, of
these might be Marton's Lamp, who comes from David Nicholson's yard and is likely to
stop fit groups. Around The Horn, four times successful lest season, finished balled on
a Easy Buck's race at Newbury on his opening run but might be the one to follow Front
Street home if book near his best.

Selection: FRONT STREET.

	3	3.00	KNIGHTS ROYAL HURDLE (CLASS B) £8,000 added 2n 11.0yds
Į	1	3111P-3	7855AR (21) (D) (EP) (Leny Benson) M Pige 4 11 10
	3		KADASTROF (FR) (21) (D) (A P Paton) R Dicker 5 11 5 D Merediti
ı	3	6115F 1	MYSRLY (36) (D) (Exter Racing Club) C Egerton 5 11 5
ı	4	2-12962	PRODWELL (7) (D) (Malcolm B Jones) M Pipe 5 11 5
ı	15	42 1313	STRAWSERRY ANGEL (25) IOI (W M Jeffons) F Bruce Miller (15) 4 11 5 Eivithe Allife
ı	6	3F0/1P2	CHAPPUCCI (245) (Mrs. E.H. Henrity Mrs. E. Henrith 5 10 12 MA Ribagoral SHOOPA (21) (Sean Devano) S. Dow 4 10 12 R. Destrood
ı	7	210-350	SHOOFK (21) (Sean Devalo) S Dow 4 10 12R Dustwood

SETTING: 4-7 Mysslv. 7-2 Klassair. 6-1 Strauberry Angel. 8-1 Pridwell, Kadastrol. 25-1 Shoofk 50-1 Britants MEs. Chapped:

1994: Reset 5 11 8 M Magare 1 8 (D Melrokon) 4 (an
FORM GUIDE

MYSRLV, whose nine hundle wins include the 1994 Thumph, looked every bit as good as

the state, which is not not the mean according to the state of the sta



WITHE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing

0839 - 111 171 Commentary

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Calls charged at 199 per son of

Test failures Tests on Dancing Dove, second to Chadwick's Ginger at Carlisle on 6 October, and High Five, tailed-off behind

Unchanged at Folkestone on 7 September, have proved positive to prohibited substances. Dancing Dove, trained by Gordon Richards, was found to have isoxsuprine in its urine and cleabuterol was found in High Five's arine.

sport

McColgan's long run from factory to fame

Geoffrey Beattle finds that Scotland's steely competitor is fired by a warmth of emotion and a debt to her first coach as she prepares for the challenge of next summer's Olympic marathon

Colgan gave what Brendan Foster described as "the greatest performance by a male or female British athlete in the history of long distance running" in winning the 10,000 metres World Championship in Tokyo. This was less than a year after the birth of her daughter, Eilish. In fact, 11 days after she gave birth, McColgan was out on a three-mile training run.

In 1991 McColgan also won the New York Marathon in 2 hr 27min, the fastest female debut at the distance. She was also voted the BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Not bad for the girl from the council estate in Dundee. Not bad for the girl who started her working life aged 16 in a jute factory, clocking on at 5.30am on those cold Scottish mornings.

These days she lives in a 14-

room mansion outside Carnoustie, whose grounds include a gatehouse now occupied by her parents. Her singlemindedness has taken her a long way. A long way up, but as we all know it's even tougher staying there. In 1992 at the Barcelona Olympics, in the 10,000 metres final McColgan trailed in in fifth place. Three weeks after the Games, she was diagnosed as suffering from anaemia, this was followed a series of operations on her knees and toes. But the recuperation is finally over, and she has set her sights on the Olympics in Atlanta next year, running in the race she has always felt was her natural distance - the marathon.

On a bright sunny winter morning in Carnoustie, I started off by asking her how lonely is long distance running?

"It really depends on the individual. I don't find it lonely at all because I quite like being on my own and when I'm running lots of things go through my head. But I suppose when you think about training - especially for the marathon which is up to three hours a day on the road I suppose other people would visualise it as being lonely."

So what kind of things does she think about when she's out there on the road for three hours at a stretch?

Well running is a funny old game. If you've any problems whatsoever in your life at all, I

In the summer of 1991 Liz Mc- a clear head and you can really think all your problems through. When I'm running I think a lot about how my body's feeling. I could be running along and have a little tightness in my leg or whatever and I talk to myself to try and release that tension. I think about the pace of my run. I have certain marks on the course that I do because everything is measured for me. I never just go out and run. I run on certain loops that I know the exact distances of, so I look at the time that I'm running and the pace that I'm running and I just thoroughly enjoy the

whole atmosphere that I'm in." My image of Liz McColgan is always of this lonely front running figure, this thin figure with the hair up running into the wind, this lonely figure who eems to want to be on her own. How accurate was this picture I had of her?

"It's not what I do today at all. I've not front run races for a long time. I only ran at the front because I would never take it easy on myself. I just went and nobody else could run with me. It's a different situation now. There's a lot more competition today, a lot more girls run a lot more faster and so now I can just sit in and try different tactics.

How did she get into running in the first place? When started running there

really wasn't anyone in the Dundee area that was running well. We didn't have Olympic champions or anything like that. I think there was one girl maybe who went to the Commonwealth Games but she was never very top. My very first run who was a mad marathon runner. In the winter he just used to say, 'Right out you go. You run round that field.' I'd always be either first or second... This teacher noticed that some of us were good so he sent us up to the local Harriers and I loved it. I didn't really have a lot of friends at the school because they were more into boys and partying and super lager type things at the weekends. I just wasn't into that. So my whole socialising ended up being at the running club. There was a lot of He was just building up muscles older men and obviously all the think the best solution is to get little girls had crushes on them. out and run because it gives you It was a lot of fun. I met Harry the Olympic gold was in my respect to my running. Everyone lem at the time was that we didn't with this one individual, did her age.



McColgan has run every day since she was 11. She says: "if I'd stopped I just wouldn't know what to do with myself"

Bennett, my first coach, at the club. He had us training Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. He was well ahead of his time. He never pushed us. We used to think it was all games he had us doing. We used to do leaping and bounding and bunny jumps, as he called them. It was actually building up our leg muscles without us actually realising what we were doing. One of my favourite sessions was zig-zagging up these hills. Now that I'm older and wiser, I realise exactly what he was up to. because we were still growing.

grasp and that I would be doing the 10,000 metres. At that time there was no distance race for women like that and I just couldn't grasp what he was getting at. It was unbelievable for him to say that to a 15-year-old."

McColgan's relationship with

her first coach was obviously ex-

tremely close. How did this affect her relationship with her "Harry was like a second dad. If my mum and dad told me to do something I'd just say 'no I'm not doing it.' If Harry told me,

it was done right away. No ques-

tions asked. I was always com-

you still doing that running thing? was what my friends used to say to me. 'Get a real job. You'll never make a living out of running.' When I was 16 I left school and was put on a YTS scheme. They put me a jute factory. I was stuck in this factory and with me being a runner it was really unhealthy because it was very dirty. I was breathing in all this dust and dirt from all the fabrics. It wasn't the greatest job for me. That was when I got the opportunity to go Amer-ica. Pd never travelled, never been on my own, never been

else just didn't understand. Are have the money. So Harry personally gave me the money. Then an uncle made up the rest

> of the money and that was it. I was away. Within a week I was gone. I went to Idaho but I was really sad because it was the last time I ever saw Harry because he died when I was out there. He died when he was out running.
> I could see that this steely

runner still gets very emotion-al, when she thinks of her mentor who gave her the one big chance to escape from the jute factory with the air thick from the dust. So what kind of effect did his death have on her?

longer there to persuade and cajole, and get her to train?

"I thought that I wouldn't run again. But then my dad said that I had the talent and that Harry wouldn't have wanted me to just stop running. I was lucky bezuse whilst Harry was coaching me he was also educating me at the same time. He was always throwing books at me to read about training and the reasoning behind it.

When we talk about dedication to athletics, the words trip out very easily, with the hearer often not reflecting on what they really mean. So what exactly does this "dedication" consist of?

"I normally get up about 5.00 am and then I'm out for my first run about 6.00. My husband Peter looks after Eilish while I run in the morning. The run lasts anything between 30 minutes and two hours just depending on what I'm doing but when I get back I get Eilish ready for school, Peter has his run then. Then I take her up to school and then really it's just a matter of relaxing for the rest of the day until my next training session because I train again at 3 o'clock. I usually have a nap of an hour in the day because of the training that I do. It's quite a boring life really. I don't do much at all. I don't do any socialising. I go to bed at 7.30." What effect did motherhood

have on her running? "It didn't really affect my attitude to running. When I had Eilish, she was unplanned and it was quite a shock but I really wasn't prepared to have a child that year and so my running was very much foremost in my mind. So I trained all through my pregnancy. I was three and half months pregnant before I knew that I was pregnant and I was training a 100 odd miles a week... I trained right up until I had her. I think it was about the week before I had her I was out for a run and I took a really sore stomach and I said 'Well, that's nature telling you stop running,' so I stopped running then_But I just love running. I think if I'd stopped I just wouldn't know what to do with myself."

I wanted to know if she felt guilty if she ever missed going out for a run.

"I do, yes definitely. It just interrupts my whole routine. If I don't run, then the next day I feel about 20 stone heavier. It's just psychological, I feel so unfit if I miss one day running. You've got to remember, I've run every day since I was 11 years old.."

The guilt about missing even one day's training was obviously

athletes thinks that they should be lighter and I'm exactly the same. Even when I'm at my lightest, I always think. 'Oh. I should be another few pounds lighter.' It's not a great way to be but I think it's good for me because it makes me very aware that I've got to be good on my diet and I've got to get the best out of my body. A couple of days before a marathon you've got to put carbohydrates into your body. I always put weight on because of it and I hate it. The two days prior to the marathon is when I'm at my worst. I just absolutely hate it.

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I asked her whether she ever looked at herself running on television and thought that she looked fat.

"All the time. I think I look fat compared with all athletes. If you look at any report from the London marathon last year, it was all 'Liz has got a weight me because if you're going into a race, you're going into per-form well and somebody turns around and says 'You're fat.' I'm not fat. I know that I'm not fat. If I look at any Joe Bloggs walking down the street, I know that I'm not fat compared to them. bone athlete, the distance runners, I'm not in that mould. When I talk to youngsters I will say, 'You don't have to be skin and bones to compete. It's a major problem, it really is."

Top athletes obviously spend a lot of time thinking about their bodies, monitoring every slight ache and pain. I asked her whether she thought that athletes could become almost. hypochondriac about every

slight twinge in their body.

Definitely yes - with some athletes the slightest thing and . they're limping off... I'm quite tough on myself. When I was 16 I broke a kneecap and I ran a race with a broken kneecap. I've run through a lot of problems which, medically, I probably shouldn't have... I've got quite a high pain tolerance... I've never, ever dropped out of a race yet in my life and I never will." Finally, how she would know when her time had come to stop

competitive running? "I'll know. I'm not one of these athletes who could line up, finish 23rd and be happy with it. I couldn't drop out of a race. I've got standards. I'll quit when

I'm at the top." Geoffrey Beattie is professor of psychology at Manchester University. His series of interviews with leading sports personali-ties, Head to Head, continues with When I was 15 he told me that ing up against a brick wall with away from my family. The prob-Since her running was so tied up tied up with her own bodily im- Liz McColgan on Radio 5 Live

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

after the European Union's highest court ruled that the game's current transfer

drunk tonight to forget it. Sam Torrance are trying to patch up their feud.

really do. I owe him a monster Christ- holic who shot a first-round 80 in the Caribbean politicians and the way Lara

spoke to him left me in shock. Richie

gether - I don't know whether they were on his absentee batsman, system and quotas on foreign players holding hands or not. Glerin Hoddle, I know what people say, but I don't feet too tense out there - that's the funthe Chelsea manager, on chairman Ken Poor John [Daly] he can't even get Bates and director Matthew Harding who ny thing, Mark Ramprakash, England batsman who continues to fail in Tests.

Fantasy and reality meet at the 19th

Tim Glover finds that the best golf tomes reveal not only

who won the ultimate Ryder Cup but also who is the best

Tyson? Was Laver better than Sampras? Would Miller have beaten Botham in an arm wrestling contest? How would Faldo have fared against his hero Hogan? As tain until, that is, he rubbished to the last question you are given a vision of what might have been in The Dream Ry-der Cup (Cassell, £17.99).

In a flight of fantasy Derek Lawrenson has taken the argument out of the 19th and but then that is supposed to be part of the fun. In his introducon to the classic stage of St Andrews where he reports on an epic match between Europe, captained by Tony

Jacklin, and the United States, led by Walter Hagen, Joining the contemporary masters in the European team are Henry Cotton. Christy O'Connor and Eric Brown. The Americans have Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Sam Spead, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson.

Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan.
The bookmakers would have had the US 2-9 favourites but Lawrenson makes it a close run thing the match being decided in the fi-nal singles between Faldo and Hogan. The major problem with this concept is that the real matches have been so close and so exciting in recent years it is hard to upstage them even in a dream world. There is also the danger of

being overtaken by events.

Nobody would have argued

was published in June.

At the time, the German

raid Steffi Graf's home, as a

spite of that, and a chronic

back injury which had caused

Graf to miss the Australian

Open in January, her public

persona was resolute, and she

triumphed at the French

Open, Wimbledon and the United States Open

gives his dream Liverpoolitan, gives his dream Liverpool FC XI. How can you have Keegan without Toshack? And how can you have roast sirloin of English beef at the gala dinner for the dream Ryder Cup? An example of how absorbing the real article is comes in John Peinstein's celebrated book A Good Walk Spoiled (Little, Brown £17.99). In the 1993 Ryder Cup at The Belfry, where Davis Love III won a crucial singles against Costantino Rocca, Love is Feinstein's Boswell and

Europe's chances in a bitter out-

burst on the eve of the contest

at Oak Hill last September. You

also have to be careful nowadays

when referring to players' wives.

I would argue with at least four selections in the European feam

tion, Lawrenson, a Liverpudlian,

ball in his first book, A Season on the Brink, he has done to professional golf and his ability to dramatise the mundane makes and you can follow a bunch of has the discipline to learn and it read more like a novel. In fact, visor-clad clones who look alike, make natural this series of move-

qualified as the worst courtesy car driver with the choice of Jackim as cap. A Season on the Brink would Ttalk alike think alike and play perience and wise counsel in have been a better title than A alike. In Fairways and Greens - Golf in a Nutshell (Hodder Good Walk Spoiled which

wrong with the book is that **Books for Christmas**

but there are enough heavy weights out there to make if an interesting point of conversation at the 19th. Whereas Feinstein Love is Feinstein's Bosweii and no stomach is left unchanned at the 19th. Whereas resussion is your man in the locker toom only a chapter in a penetrating with a virgin notebook, a dogupstairs and downstairs. What that a pro golfer endures a cialist drills you too can have a Feinstein did to college basket brital existence. Dan Jenkins is swing like Faldo's. I simplify the your man at the bar with a backswing to a three step se-bloody many and a bloody mind. quence," Faldo explains. "It is my Pollow the American tour

A Timeless Anthology of Golf Stories (CollinsWillow £9.99) comes from a dog-eared quote. Stories (Collins Willow £9.99) by Mark Twain. The only thing Jenkins knows the difference between Mr Nice Guy and Mr everybody in it would like it. - Pain in the Butt and the latter Feinstein is described as is all too identifiable in the cre-"America's No I sportswriter" ation of Bobby Ice Grooves, the first player on tour to leave 12

> Lauren St John's Out of Bounds (Partridge Press £16.99) is the European Tour's answer to A Good Walk Spoiled. St John: a 30-year-old Zimbabwean, stalks the professional cir- from a similar school cuit with an almost missionary zeal and if it moves St John will interview it. It doesn't match Peinstein's for melodrama but she does a good job with less interesting material.

courtesy cars in ditches.

Faido: A Swing for Life.
(Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £17.99) is written not with his analyst, David Leadbetter, but Richard Simmons of Golf World. Simmons is the magazine's expert on golf instruction and he explains that with a number of spesincere belief that anyone who.

ments has the ability to become a single figure golfer." A plus for by Harold Riley.

There is also a wealth of exand Stoughton, £9.99). John Jacobs is the Mr Chips of his profession and he has collaborated with another master craftsman, Peter Dobereiner, in a book that should be carried in a golf bag rather than left on a shelf. The flight of the ball," as they say, "tells it all." The late American coach Harvey Penick achieved worldwide success with his sagacious contributions to the debate and Golf in a Nutshell is a thoroughbred

Talking of best-sellers, Golfing by J R Harrley (Hodder and Stoughton, £9.99) is a follow-up to the extraordinarily successful Fly Fishing by the same author. Golfing is stylish, charming and amusing but we could do without the Yellow Pages pic-ture of that smug old sod, J R Hartley who has now turned his attention to casting his niblick over the courses of England. OVET the COURSES Of England.
Also recommended Peter Allies the Lay Sofiar's Companion (Collectifica), 112.99; held a botter A Good Wall Spoiled by Torn Mortan Adjustation (Adjustment Peter Publishing E12.99); Bott et St. Annimum by Neth Marcie (Autum Press, 225); Oarld Leedbetter's Leanants more the Sofi Greats (Collectifica Land. 18.00); The Utilizate Engologistic of Golf by Red Borrett and Mcharl Hobbs (Hottler and Strugiston, £18.90); Mendedings by Robert Mosters and John Borns (Januar Pees, £2.98); St. Andrews Golf Links by Torn Jarett (Mother Mosters and John Borns (Januar Pees, £2.98); St. Andrews Golf Links by Torn Jarett (Mother Statings (Stanier) Paul 17.799.

Courts of Babylon as Graf deals with glory and grief

One title - Steffi: Public Poper, Private Pain (Virgin Publishing, £12.99) - has become John Roberts on a new book on the women's world No 1 and other intriguing fare served up in the world of tennis even more apposite since it

The biography, by Sue both the public power, having Heady, a freelance writer, is a shown Steffi how she could authorities were preparing to reasonable attempt, bearing in mind the subject's lack of cooperation, to give an impostant hand, and the private pain.

son of a great champion who Coping with injuries and illurayes privacy as much as she nesses is one thing, but her fallows playing tennia. No doubt ther's highly publicised affair result of which her father/manager, Peter, was inprisoned, accused of evading millions of marks in taxes on his daughter's carnings. In the author met with far less resistance when researching pre-vious publications drawing the attention of tourists to the attractions of Mauritius, the Sey-

dominate the sport with her athleticism and ferocious fore-

with a German model in 1990 was particularly difficult to deal

An example of the splendid side of Steffi Graf's life is highchelles and the Hong Kong, lighted in The Official Wimble Country Club.

Country Club.

Annual (Hazleton details of almost everything Peter Graf is given due recog- Publishing, £18.99). Her victo- one could wish to know con-Peter Graf is given due recog. Publishing, £18.99). Her victo- one could wish to know con- Shop. Ringwood. Hants, nition for his contribution to ryagainst Arantza Sanchez Vic- cerning the world's most pres- BH24 3NF.

ario, in a final which turned on a game of 32 points contested over 20 minutes; was one for the in ITF World of Tennis 1995. record books and the memory

The annual, with text by John Parsons and photographs by Clive Brunskill, Gary M Prior and Clive Mason, of Allsport is a fine souvenir of the fortnight's dramas.

To complement the annual, The Wimbledon Compendium 1995, by Alan Little, provides

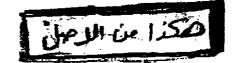
obtained from the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, London SW19 5AE, at £6.50 plus 98p

edited by John Barrett (Collins Willow, £9.99), An American publication

which is worthy of attention is The Courts of Babylon, a critical review of the professional game and its personalities written with mixed emotions by Peter Bodo. Published by Scribner (part of Simon and Schuster), it can be purchased for £28 from the Tennis Book



"Calls are charged at 18p per minute (economy rate), 48p at all other times, Calls made from pay phones and other natworks are subject to network availability and prevailing rates of those naty



Country Club.

Africa at Twickenham - this was

the hesitant Springboks being

led back into the fold - but then

Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach in New Zealand, played

Clarke at 6 or 7 with conspicu

ous success. He emerged as the

Lions' player of the series. Having been poached and coached by Rowell, Clarke has

the added responsibility this sea-

son, at the age of 27, of leading

not only the Bath pack but the

England eight which is not quite

the same bed of roses. "Playing

flanker made me think more

about my game," Clarke said.

The first couple of times I got away with it but when people started studying the video they

saw enormous holes in my game.

I sought as much advice as pos-

sible on lines of running and po-

sitional play. Number S's easy. You just follow the number 7."

on their new contracts, they're

following Clarke. There are

some very experienced players

around me. I'm finding my way

and if things aren't right there

are players in the pack who

know what's going on. I don't

have to ask them to play with

pride and passion. Up front we

played reasonably well against

South Africa although we could

tunities but they applied an in-

credible amount of pressure and

forced us into doing things we

wouldn't normally do. They are

far better than people think.

They taught us a few lessons and

as long as we've come out of it

with something then it's not a dis-

aster. It would be a bit hasty if any-

body said we'd gone backwards."

Clarke is sitting in the Peter-sham Hotel in Richmond and be

looks whacked. Up at 6.30am to

drive from Bath to London for

a business meeting with his

brother-in-law: England training at the Bank of England ground:

interview with Capital Radio on

his favourite music: to Twicken-

ham with Carling for a photo ses-

sion for a new book; mineral

water with the Independent, de-

clining a pint of Brakspears on

the grounds that one leads to an-

other; team meeting. He al-

ready has a book out this year:

Ben Clarke's Rugby Skills. He

laughs like crazy at the title. "I shouldn't think any of the oth-

ers have read it," he said. "I've

terms with the RFU are Carling,

Rodber, Mike Catt and Martin

Johnson "The contracts should

have been sorted out a long time

and is not inclined to give up his

day job, PR work with National Power, so he drives about 50,000 miles a year. "I'm lucky I can do

both," he said. "It gives me a bit

more security. My ambition is to

play for England full stop." All

Clarke needs for Christmas is a handsome win over Western

He usually trains twice a day

taken a bit of leg pulling." The squad's negotiators over

ago," Clarke said.

In 1992 he replaced Richards Samoa and a video that will

Britain keeping Olympic

"We gave them a few oppor-

have had a little more drive.

Now, with the ink barely dry

Tired nomad

back in his

rightful place

Ben Clarke may be leader of the pack but he still intends to keep his day job.

Tim Glover meets England's No 8

In the brave new professional

world, nothing, or almost

nothing, is left to chance, Jack Rowell, the England manager.

revealed this week that his

charges were required to study

videos of their individual per-

formances. So, how did it look Ben? Ben Clarke looked em-

barrassed. "I haven't got a video recorder." he admitted. "It's

Getting turned over by South

Africa at Twickenham was bad

enough (this was the X-rated

movie the boys were meant to

study in the comfort of their

homes) but Clarke gives the im-

pression that being blitzed by

the All Blacks in the semi-final

of the World Cup in the sum-

mer had left a scar on England's

psyche. "I will never forget the

sheer speed, pace and power of their game," he said.

The funny thing is is that England were ready for the on-

slaught. "We thought they would

try something to break the game

up. We knew exactly what they

were going to do but we were completely outplayed." Clarke

said. It didn't help, of course, that

Will Carling had said on the eve

of the game: "We're going to tear

those boys apart." In the event,

of course. Jonah Lomu scored four tries. "We did underestimate

Lomu," Clarke said. "I don't

know why. We didn't expect him

embarrassed England. One of

the All Blacks tries had noth-

ing to do with the wing, every-

thing to do with the sharp

interplay between back-row and

scrum-half. It came from a scrum and England's vaunted back-row of Clarke, Dean

Richards and Tim Rodber didn't lay a hand on anybody.

"I know why that happened." Clarke recalls, "but I can't re-

ally say." Presumably on the grounds that he would incrim-

inate his team-mates or Rowell.

realise what the All Blacks

realised during the World Cup.

namely that Deano is too old

and too slow for Test rugby with

the result that Clarke, a back-

row nomad, is back in his right-

ful position at No 8. This is what

he was at Bishop's Stortford and

at Saracens whom he joined in

Two years later Big Jack, who

was in charge at Bath, rang Big Ben and offered him a place. "I

told him I'd have to think about it," Clarke said, "but there was

nothing to think about. I had a

tremendous amount of respect

Bath promise Clarke, then a

student at Cirencester agricul-

ture college, a rose garden? "Far from it," he said. "I rented a

house with Phil de Glanville and

l was given a job at a dairy farm.

I had to get up at 5am every

morning, feeding and milking the cows. It was a hands on job."

as England No 8 against South

Saracens were incensed. Did

for Bath. I was flattered."

Whatever, England now

But it wasn't just Lomu who

to be quite as strong."

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY: Impoverished Western Samoa ready to prove their worth as money talk disrupts home team's preparation

Time for England to show vision

As representing your country used to be honour enough in itself to a rugby man, there has been something mildly un-savoury about the incessant monetary talk that has distracted England during their preparation for this afternoon's match against Western Samoa.

Given that this is one of those games where winning in style is as imperative as simply winning, the prolonged debate about whether professional contracts on offer from the Rugby Football Union should be accepted has not only been tiresome but has left the players even easier targets for the cynics among us.

Should things go awry in Twickenham's first floodlit international, they now have a salary as well as their performance for which to be blamed. Or at least most of them do, the vast majority having followed the lead of their captain, Will Carling, by signing on the RFU's dotted line.

So much for Ross Turnbull's alternative plans for a rugby cir-cus in which England's finest did not wish to be the clowns. (Turnbull, incidentally, is back in Sydney). For the real thing, look no further than the 78,000 megabowl in south-west London, even if the visitors are down the peckingorder compared with All Blacks, Springboks and Wallabies.

At the same time, this game, with its prologue of England's contractual agonisings, neatly highlights the dichotomy of international rugby. Members of Carling's team are being paid well enough, in addition to their other sources of income, to withstand external blandishments. You could say something similar about their counterparts in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

But the impoverished Samoans, having effectively been abandoned by their nearest neighbours, exist out on the goodwill of hand-outs and even though their situation has imskill of their coach, Bryan Williams, their abundant talent makes them uniquely open to

Half-a-dozen took themselves off to rughy league after this to be convinced.

year's World Cup and equally worrying is the continuing threat even now that Williams has acquired sponsorship from a New Zealand bank which is giving his players an indeterminate in-come. It would probably be a fur-tune to most islanders but is modest by comparison with England let alone the big southernhemisphere union

This disparity helps give to-day's match its overwhelming significance to the Samoans. "It is the biggest game in Western Samoan history," Williams said, bigger still than two World Cup quarter-finals.

You could not quite say the same about England, even if the intention is that it will mark a great leap forward towards the mobile/fluid rugby which has been a matter of theory but not practice ever since Jack Rowell became manager last year. "Dynamic" used to be a buzz-word; now it is just another tired cliche.

As was England's rugby against South Africa four weeks ago. Thus the changes in personnel - notably at half-back with the introduction of the Northampton pairing of Paul Grayson and Matthew Dawson - may well prove less important than another imponderable: whether Eng-land collectively have an ounce of tactical appreciation.

Running rugby is not the same as running round like headless chickens. Nor, some forwards may care to remember, does it entail an incessant search for contact with an op-ponent when carrying the ball. This relies on other imponderables such as peripheral vision and, as it happens, this is one area in which the players know they some heavily because part of their build-up has involved sportsvision screening at their hotel on Richmond Hill from which the

view of Twickenham's soaring

new stands is a permanent re-

minder of what lies ahead. Having yesterday collated the results of Thursday's testing, the testers pronounced that Engthough their simuation has im-proved thanks to the negotiating hand-eye co-ordination than any of the British Olympic athletes tested under the same system earlier in the year. This means running rugby should be second nature, but we wait

Ponsãoby

Marist, capt

Wales leave out famous names

ENGLAND V WESTERN SAMOA at Twickenham Wests 14 Bilma Buth 12 G Leau Northempton 10 D Kellett **G** Rountree M Regan

.... Herleguins

..... Leicester Northamoton Bath 8 Replacements: 16 J Calistel (Saire, 17 P de Chandille (Saith), 28 K Bracten (Reistel, 19 V Diogle (Saith), 21 E Davie (Shith), 21 A Robigson (Saith).

The Weish international careers

of Robert Jones and Mike Hall

look to be over. Jones, capped

54 times at scrum-half, and cen-

tre Hall, the World Cup skipper, have both failed to make the first

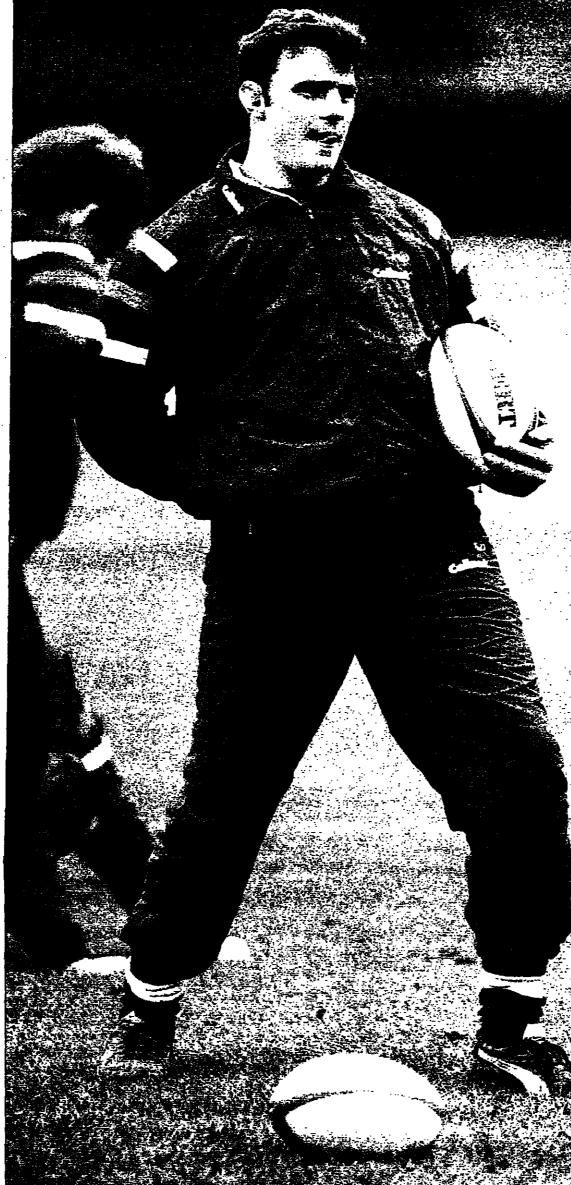
squad of the new coach, Kevin

Bowring. A jumbo 42 player party has been named prepare

for the international against

Italy at Cardiff Arms Park on 16-

Fly-half Adrian Davies, lock



Preparing for the long stretch: All Ben Clarke wants is to keep

M Taylor (Svensee), N Jeadens (Przypradd). A Thomas (Bristo), M Levids (Bridgend), A Moore (Cardiff), R Howley (Bridgend), P John (Porthyridd). Forwards: A Levids (Cardiff), P John (Porthyridd). Forwards: A Levids (Cardiff), E John (Bridgend), J Devins (Neath), L Mustee (Cardiff), S Jendell, S John (Laneil), C Anthony (Swensee), J Humphreys (Cardiff), G Jendins (Swensee), R McChydd (Llareil), D Jones (Cardiff), A Moore (Swansee). S Llewellyn (Nesth), M Voyle (Nespon), P Jones (Lareil), H Taylor (Cardiff), E Levis (Cardiff), A Gibbs (Newpringe), C Quinnell (Llareil), M Spiller

Sole banned until end of season

captain, has been suspended until the end of the season for bringing the game into disrepute. The ban, imposed by the Scottish Rugby Union after Sole's outspoken criticism of a referee, means he will be unable to coach Edinburgh Academicals again until the start of next

David Sole, the former Scotland

Sole, 34, had said that the actions of the referee, Colin Henderson, in last month's league match between Academicals and Melrose at Raeburn Place

were "tantamount to cheating". Henderson awarded nine penalties against Academicals in injury time, from which Melrose eventually scored to win. Sole's outburst brought an immediate backlash from the international referee Ray Megson, who indicated that he would not referee any Edinburgh Academicals' match unless some action was taken.

An SRU statement issued today said: "The sentence reflects the SRU's policy of providing the fullest support for referees, and the absolute priority to promote good behav-

iour on and off the field. "Concern was expressed that despite opportunities being given to apologise to the referee, David Sole was unable to attend

a meeting but gave a written explanation of his remarks instead and has not apologised."

Sole, who represented Scotland 44 times between 1986 and 1992 and who played three times for the British Lions, was unavailable for comment.

Stirling County must win by 43 points against Heriot's FP at Goldenacre today if they are to retain the Tennents Championship title. If they fall short, the title goes to Melrosc.

Greg Prosser, prop Ricky Evans Bulls keep up spending spree

and back-row forward Stuart

The absence of Jones could

well prompt him to go through

with a move to Harlequins,

with whom he has already

signed provisional forms and is

sitting out his 120-day qualifi-cation period.

on anyone," Bowring insisted.

"Robert has been very loyal and

a terrific player for Wales in the

"We haven't closed the door

Davies are other notable

RUGBY LEAGUE DAVE HADFIELD

Bradford Bulls have continued their hyper-activity in the trans-fer market, with the Dewsbury half-back, Davide Longo, hecoming their 14th acquisition since Brian Smith took charge this summer.

Longo, a 20-year-old Academy international, has arrived in exchange for two Bradford reserves. Craig Moore and Shaun Austerfield. He will not play tomorrow, but the Bulls' 13th new arrival, Paul Cook, will make his debut against Leeds, the club he left on Wednesday.

The player who moved in the opposite direction, Carl Hall, is also quickly into action, liming up in the courses for Leeds at Odsal.

That enables their coach, Dean Bell, to move Craig Innes. to stand-off, with Tony Kemp and Garry Schofield still injured. "I think that it is really going

to work out very well for me here," said Hall after his first training session with his new team-mates. "Some of my friends have hit the big time straight away, but I have had to do it the hard way." Oldham, given a suspended

fine this week for deliberately fielding a weakened side earlier this season, will be fielding a weakened side through no fault of their own against Wigan af-

ter their injury crisis worsened.
Sheffield Eagles, with a run
of five wins behind them, have doubts about Mark Gamson, Mark Aston, Paul Broadbent and John Lawless at the London

Broncos. Paul Dixon is back from suspension, and Waisale Sovatabua and Ryan Sheridan

past and now we are looking to

some of these players for the

Bowring has sent recall messages to Gareth Llewellyn and Emyr

Lewis, and there are call-ups for

15 uncapped players, including

Bristol-based fly-half Arwel

While Jones misses out,

should be fit again. London expect to have their creative forward, Peter Gill, back in the starting line-up after having a partial rest on the bench with a neck injury last week.

The second round of the Silk Out Challenge Cup has amateur sides playing each other in a straight knock-out for the right to meet the professionals for the last time, if the most radical reformers have their way.

The future shape of the game's oldest competition is in doubt, which will strike a chord with Blackpool Gladiators, who have applied for re-admission to the league and will test their recent progress at one of the stronger Barla teams, West Hull. drops to the bench and St John

Wigan unfazed by injuries Ellis is out. In the pack, the prop

The leaders Wigan, who will go eight points clear at the top if they win at Oldham tomorrow. have injury doubts over their Welsh forward Scott Quinnell (shoulder) and skipper Shaun Edwards (thigh).

Wigan, however are unfazed. Looking certain to clinch a seventh successive title this season, they have won on nine of their last 11 league and cup visits to Oldham whose last home win against the champions was a Lancashire Cup success in 1989.

Mounting injuries mean that Bradford and Leeds both have to juggle with their line-ups for their match at Odsal tomorrow. Bradford's teenage international Paul Cook will be on the left wing while Roger Simpson

moves to full-back, Dave Turpin

Eugene Bourneville and the second rower Brian McDermott, both substitutes at London, are in for the injured Karl Pairbank (calf strain) and Alan Wilson (ankle). Simon Knox switches to loose forward.

Leeds are still missing their skipper Garry Schofield, Tony Kemp and Jim Fallon through injury, while the former Great Britain full-back Alan Tait is again omitted. With Carl Hall making his de-

but in the centre, Craig Innes is switched to stand-off and Graham Holrovd moves to scrum-half with Marvin Golden moving to the wing. James Lowes reverts to hooker and Mick Shaw steps down to substitute, with the teenager Jamie Field going in to the second row. Jason Palmada start in the pack.

Halifax, who have several players out injured, have the fullback Mike Umaga back after injury to face Workington. His fellow Western Samoan Fereti Tuilagi is sidelined with a badly bruised rib. Tongan Asa Amone goes in to the centre.

Workington's coach, Kurt Sorensen, turns to youth, recalling the teenager Mark Wallace, who was carried off after only 20 minutes of his senior debut against St Estève last month, and picking 20-year-old Leigh Smith as full-back.

Sorensen is without Kevin Pape (back), Wayne Kitchin (knee), Lee Chilton (hamstring), Phil McKenzie (neck), Paul Burns (groin) and Stephen Holgate (groin), so the New Zealanders Lafaele Filipo and

trials to themselves

Athletics

Britain's athletes will have next summer's Olympic trials at Birmingham to themselves. A dispute about whether overseas competitors should continue to be allowed to take part was settled at a meeting last

The Amateur Athletic Association of England wanted the trials to remain open, because the event doubles as their own championships which have accepted foreigners for more than 100 years.

But they came under strong pressure from the British Athletic Federation, and leading athletes represented by the 400 metres runner Roger Black and the high jumper Gcoff Parsons.

A joint statement issued by the AAA. BAF and Black and Parsons after the meeting said: "The AAA's senior championships for 1996 will be open only to athletes eligible to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

This is a significant achievement and has been brought about by the close co-operation of the AAA of England, the BAF and international athletes."

It represents further evidence of improved lines of communication between officials and athletes which hit a new low with pay disputes and selection rows this summer.

FOOTBALL: The pen may master the sword but the boot is a different matter, as Glenn Moore found when he trained with Liverpool

Meeting of feet between a hack and a hard man

As Neil Ruddock moved in I frantically tried to recall if I had ever written something foolish like: "Ruddock played like a carthorse". Nothing came to mind, but what if "Razor" confused me with someone who

Fortunately, Liverpool's bruising centre-half had another journalist in his sights, the News of the World man who had followed him around for three weeks during his marital problems. Now, somewhat boldly, the stalker had had the gall to turn up at Melwood to train

As Robbie Fowler rasped in shots of ever greater velocity the unfortunate journalist - who had volunteered for a session in goal after Joe Corrigan got fed up - began to lose enthusiasm for his task. The sound of Ruddock bawling "break his fingers so he won't be able to write" did

We were two of a cluster of hacks who had been invited to see how one of England's finest teams honed its stars. The session had been set up, like most football PR stunts, by a spon-sor, in this case Adidas who were showing off the latest ver-sion of their Predator boot.

The afternoon began with a reeting from Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, along the lines of "we've been dying to take the Mick out of you". Then Sammy Lee took the warm-up. As he led us around the training ground at a brisk jog one staff member shouted out "the physio's room is second on the right". A hack gasped some-thing like "I thought Liverpool did all their training with a ball".

Fortunately, they do. Juventus or Wimbledon, where players face a rigourous daily work-out, would have been considerably more taxing. This was simply to warm up muscles

that are more used to pushing the pedals of a car than kicking

"Most of what we do has been the same since I have been here," said Evans, who has spent more than two decades at the club. "One thing that has changed is the emphasis on warming-down as well as warming-up. In the last five or six years we have done much more of that than we used to."

Liverpool, like many clubs, also look at diet and other aspects of players' health. "We are always looking to learn." Evans said. "You have to listen to the scientists. There is a place for them in the game, as long as it is alongside the football and

'Most of what we do has been the same since I have been here'

Having stretched rusty hamstrings dangerously close to snap-ping, the Press, not a body of men noted for their devotion to good dietary practices, had finally been given a ball to play with. However, dribbling through narrow plastic cones with Liverpool's finest watching on is not an easy exercise. As England's most successful team in Europe this season (wins in Norway and France), the Press corps had been in cocky mood. This quickly dissipated as we attempted to juggle the ball between us.

Ruddock, in our group, showed a noticably more refined touch. Liverpool's training is based, as it has been since the days of Bill Shankley, on small-sided miliar to anyone who watches Kevin Keegan's Newcastle train at Durham: warm-up, ball-work, small-scale match. The Dutch trained at Melwood before their European Championship playoff at Anfield and, Evans said, their routine was very similar.

The drawback with such training is a lack of work on specifics. One player recently re-cruited to such a club has told his old manager that he thinks he may be playing worse. "I play with all these great players," he said, "but they never work on my game the way you used to." Evans admits that can be a

problem but it is more a ques-tion of circumstance. "When things are going well it is not a problem but, when they are not you are cramped for time. I would like to have done some work this week but we have had five players away with England and Ireland. At times the games take over from the coaching."
This was one of the main

themes of the recent get-together between Terry Venables and the managers of clubs who had figured in Europe. Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds, said there were so many games "English clubs were becoming blackboard teams". With time limited points were made on the blackboard rather than the training ground.

One reason for this is the relatively short time English teams devote to training. A survey by World Soccer compared Blackburn's regime with those of Juventus, Real Madrid, Dortmund, Nantes and Ajax. A common theme was the amount of extra training by the foreign sides.

This was partly due to fewer games but not entirely. Dortmund, who had played as many games as Blackburn to the end of November (24), train twice a



game when there is. Ajax have a similar programme. The Ajax olayers, who had been up to 3am celebrating the Netherlands' win over freiand on Wednesday night, were training in Amsterdam on Thursday afternoon.

But, Evans noted, there is another factor, the climate, which makes training easier for Juventus than Liverpool. "When it is cold it does not do any good having players standing around outside while you explain things. We have had to do a bit more on specifics recently, working on different options for

game and often on the day of a But we have always been a you can change too much." Liverpool's recent run is the

first time things have gone wrong under Evans and it has clearly caused him deep thought. The signing of Stan lems, both with his outspoken interviews and Liverpool's difficulty in assimilating him into the team. Collymore has ested Liverpool bought him without knowing what to do with him, but Evans said: "There has to be some give and take. Teams

they do against Forest, they do them. Stan is quite capable of joining in the short stuff.

"We have had our worst run for years but that does not mean the style is wrong. Confidence plays a massive part. Expectation was high. It always is at Liverpool the League Cup and doing well in the league, we were expected to be genuine title contenders. I give anything up, but we have

That opens a taxing Christmas programme, fixtures against Arsenal, Aston Villa and Chelsea follow.

absent on Sunday with his hamsting injury. But, judging by his scored twice at Old Trafford in October, is coming back to form.

After the News of the World nan had made the mistake of tipping one of his curiers past the post, Fowler began shooting with astonishing power in one so languid and slender. He was also

appreciably "wobble". Us hacks could only make our Predators curl it. The boots were very comfortable but, like the best golf clubs, you have to be a decent Jamie Redknapp, who has player to bring the best out of been sorely missed, will still be them. At £120 a throw they are an expensive Christmas present, and not exactly the cheap teaching aid Craig Johnston originally designed them to be. With Powler in their side the

left-footers comfortably beat the right-footers in the final shoot-out. That meant 30 pressups for the losing team with Ruddock counting them down. The shoulders still ache, but at least

team news

retain the side that drew 0-0 restat letem) or sate week, with leng-and middelder Platt resovering from the harnstring strein he suffered at The Dre. Berglamp is rested after picking up a niggling calf injuny in the Netherlands' becomes Observationalistic description over Ireland.

Aston Villa v Coventry Villa expect to have Republic of Ireland duo Townsend and McGrath available. thic Townsend and McGrath available. Townsend has recovered from the knee injury he sustained against Holland. Covertry's new £2m capture from Leds, Whelan, is set for his debut. De-fenders Shaw and Williams, both sus-pended for last week's 5-0 rout of Blackburn, return but goal/seeper Ogri-zovic is banned and will be replaced by the Australian/Filan.

Blackburn v Nieddesbrough Doleman, Rovers' new £2.8m signing from Crystal Palace, could make his debut if Scotland centre-back Hendry falls to recover from back and rib injuries. Fenton or Swede Gudmundsson could partner Shearer up from with Newell and Sixthin hand deulthill. Bean wife he us-Sutton both doubtful. Boro will be un-changed from the side that beat Man-chester City 4-1 at home last week.

Czech international goalkeeper Smicek makes his first full appearance of the makes his first rull appearance or une season for the Premiership leaders, with Histop sidelined by a hip injury. England pair Lee and Ferdinand are expected to recover from knocks. Everton manager Royle will wait until the last moment before deciding whether to give Scottish striker Ferguson his first full appearance since his release from prison. QPR v Bolton

Rangers will again be without top-scor-er Dichic who is serving the second game of a three-match suspension, game or a twee-match suspension, while player-manager Willems Includes himself in an 1.8-man squed "Full-back limmy Prillips has "Itu and is a major doubt for Bolton, who are skeady without for Bolton, who are skeady without long-term injury victims Stubbs, Peatelainen, Lee and Thompson.

Sheff Wed v Leeds

Sheff Wed v Leeds
Wednesday manager Pleat is likely to
leap the side that impressed in a 2-2
draw at Manchester United last week,
Wednesday's 24.5m pair Kovacevo and
Statanoke, who are awaiting international clearance, will watch the match
after arriving from Red Star Beigrade,
Ireland defender Kelly returns from international duty for the visitors, who welcome McAllisters back from injury.
West Harn are offendered.

West Ham are strengthened by the re-turn of defender Mardn, who looks cer-tain to play, and midfielder Moncur, who may have to settle for a place on the bench. Saints will be without injured wingers. Bennett (hamstring) and Hearley (virus) so manager Merrington is set to call up Watson and youngster Oakley. Defender Dodd faces a fitness test on a foot injury.

New centre-back signing Pearce is ex-pected to recover from a back prob-em, which means Wimbledon manager Kinnear is likely to retain the side that draw 1-1 at Leeds last week. That means former captain Jones is unlikely to play after having a transfer request granted this week. Totterham striker Sheringlam is betting to overcome the hamstring trouble which cost him a place in England's match with Portugal Brits Description and full best Mills. pace in Engand's mann with Porto-gal. Both Sheringham and full-back Wil-son, arother hamsting victim, are rated at only 50-50. Untried striker Stade and defender Edinburgh stand by. TOMORROW

COMORROW
Liverpool v Man Utd
Already without Rush, Reddrapp and
Ruddock, Liverpool waits on Tilu victims Clough and Scales. United's Republic of Ireland midfielder Kearie is still
not ready for Premiership action after
his hemila operation, despite a reserve
team appearance on Thursday. Goalleager Schmeichel and winger Glass are
both skely to return, however.

Walker set for Leicester post

Mike Walker will return to football tomorrow after a 13month exile when he fills the vacancy at Leicester City left by the departure of Mark

McGhee. The 50-year-old former Everton manager has had talks with the Leicester chairman, Martin George, and is due to meet him again tomorrow be-fore watching Leicester play Norwich in his role as a television commentator. An announcement is due to be made after the game.

After a 24-year goalkeeping career, Walker moved into management with Colchester in 1983, spending three years as assistant before taking over at Layer Road in 1986. When he was sacked the following year, Walker became reserve coach at Norwich, where he was pro-moted to manager in 1992. He resigned in January 1994 to sign a three-and-a-half year contract with Everton, but he failed to end the Merseyside club's slump and was dismissed in November 1994.

Howard Kendall's first signing for Sheffield United could be Manchester City's Michel Vonk. The Dutch defender, who is available at £300,000, is currently on loan at Oldham. Leeds have agreed an initial fee of £50,000 for the 21-yearold goalkeeper Paul Evans from Witts University, South Africa, in a deal which could cost the Elland Road club up to £750,000, depending on firstteam appearances.

Gillingham have reinforced their Third Division promotion push by paying £100,000 for Cambridge's 33-year-old striker Steve Butler, who could make his debut at Bury today. A cardiologists' convention has cost Ibrox the chance of hosting the European Cup-Winners' Cup final in May. Uefa yesterday awarded the fi-nal to the King Baudouin Sta-dium in Brussels, with Rangers blaming a lack of hotel beds available in Glasgow for the 8 May showpiece. The European Cup final will be played at Rome's Olympic Stadium on 22

May.
■ Diego Maradona has threaten to quit Boca Juniors in a dispute over who should be the coach. Maradona, who wants the job himself, said that to be in charge would be a dream appointment. "It's like having Cindy Crawford and Claudia Schiffer naked in front of you,"

Eddie Clamp, the former England wing-half who won two League championships and an FA Cup final with Wolves, has died aged 61.

from Wembley and the Portuguese via Anfield to marvel at the Dutch, it was possible to discover light and warmth in a dark and cold December week. The future may or may not be orange, but it certainly has a golden hue as far as next summer's European Champi-

ouships are concerned. For the English professional no such fast-forward fantasy is permitted just yet. The long haul through winter's barsh landscape has only just begun. Glamour has given way to graft and grit as those with designs on the Premiership pick up their spades and begin digging in. Last season Newcastle Unit-

ed's claims foundered at this same pre-festive juncture and the events of a week ago brought new ammunition for those who argue that Kevin Keegan's talented collection as a slump waiting to happen. While the Stamford Bridge

defeat may only be significant in accentuating the positive - in recent seasons it has sometimes been a prerequisite for would-be champions to give second best to Chelsea -Geordie hearts and minds will be put at ease if tonight's League table continues to show them remaining unchecked at St James' Park.

Jittery Newcastle put red rivals on alert draw Scotland Taking football's scenic route

Trevor Haylett looks forward to this weekend's crucial Premiership matches

Keegan would not have chosen a visit from Everton to follow their West London banana skin. Joe Royle's ultra competitors dismissed them from last season's FA Cup although a Les Ferdinand-inspired Newcastle took some revenge with a Goodison victory in October.

If the future, as far as domestic issues are concerned, is not to be black-and-white, then logic would suggest it will once more be red, the Manchester United shade rather than that of tomorrow's opponents, Liv-

Having staged Netherlands' clinical destruction of the Republic of Ireland, the Anfield men will hope their own faith in clever passing and movement will gain its rightful reward after a less than impressive run. while United look to improve

The corresponding fixture included the successful return of Eric Cantona after his enforced summer hibernation. In what is sure to be an atmosphere in contrast to the sportsmanship displayed on Wednesday, the Frenchman will need to maintain the discipline that so far has distinguished his post-ban ap-

Cantona is the nearest Eng lish football can place alongside the sophistication of the Dutch and the Portuguese who, 24 hours earlier, demonstrated to a Wembley audience that they, too, have an appreciation of football's finer arts. Dennis Bergkamp is another, but the injury which forced him to leave the Anfield party has cost Arsenal his services - at home to

day in a row. Ron Atkinson returns to Villa Park less than thrilled by the difference of 16 places between his present and past employers. But at least there was last week's 5-0 victory over the champions to remind Coventry what they are capable of.

Chelsea - for the third Satur-

The Highfield Road humiliation persuaded Blackburn Rovers to spend again with the £2.8m acquisition of Chris Coleman. The former Crystal Palace defender will make his debut at home to Middlesbrough should Colin Hendry fail to show his recovery from cracked ribs. Rovers' attack is also riddled with injuries, which means Alan Shearer could have the former Aston Villa player Graham Fenton as a new strike

sponsors on the front. Oh yes, the "All-m-One Garden Cen-

England may

Glenn Moore on a European draw with hidden depths

Uefa yesterday decided that, if Bosnia could play Croatia and the Czech Republic meet Slovakia, England and Scotland could be permitted to play each No excuse for nerves then. other after all.

After Tuesday's World Cup draw produced several poten-tially inflammatory ties involving the former component parts of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia Uefa did consider keeping the British teams apart in tomorrow afternoon's draw for the final stages of the European

However, yesterday they decided against a "fix". England and Scotland, bound together by a single government since 1707, free from internecine war since 1746, and separate entities only in sporting matters, may play each other in the group stages after all. The Wembley goalposts will be trembling already.

When it comes to presenting the draw from Birmingham's International Convention Centre England and Scotland will definitely be together. With both main terrestrial channels televising events live duties will be shared by Sue Barker, of the BBC and England, and Bob Wilson, of ITV and Scotland.

The draw will be made, not by such celebrities as Denis Law or Pele, but by the instantly recognisable figures of Gerhard Aigner and Lennart Johansson, the general secretary and president of Uefa. The pair have, boast Uefa, jointly of-ficiated at more than 100 draws.

Since only four teams are seeded, England, Denmark, Spain and Germany, the draw ought to be simple. But then it would be over too quickly - there are 1,500 guests, 600 journalists and an estimated 400 million television viewers to impress. So a complicated three-stage system of balls and bowls has been de-It is so cunning that very few

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4 24

people at Euro '96 seem able to explain it but it may work something like this. First the 12 unseeded teams will be drawn and placed, one by one, in groups one to four, so the first, fifth and ninth teams drawn will be in group one, the second, sixth and 10th in group two, and so on.

Then the seeds will be drawn and placed in groups. Whichever group England are in will be redesignated A (Wembley and Villa Park). The other groups will have their letter drawn from yet another bowl. B is Leeds and Newcastle, C is Old Trafford and Anfield, D is Hillsborough and the City Ground.

Those were impressionable years... I was being indoctrinated and primed for years of disappointment and frustration

heard that once, I have heard it a thousand times. However, I have to concede it is a fair question. What on earth possesses a person like myself with a Home Counties accent to show allegiance to a small and unfashionable Lancashire club, an immutable symbol of footballing non-achievement?

It is true that Rochdale are not and have never been a great team. Not only are they dwarfed by their venerable neighbours from along the M62, but they have no past glories to draw upon like Preston, Burnley or the recently revived Blackburn. Throughout their eighty-eight year history, Rochdale have never won a thing (unless you include the Lancashire Senior Cup in 1949

"Why Rochdale?" If I have and 1971) and seem established as a permanent resident of the Third Division.

But of course I did not choose Rochdale, I had mediocrity thrust upon me. My Father was a dedicated regular at Spotland and in his younger days, on moving south, kept in touch by going to local away games. My earliest football memories therefore are of Dale games at Griffin Park and the Valley, and occasionally on trips back to the north, those first visits to Spotland.

My heroes at the time never gained entry into football's Hall of Fame. But those were impressionable years and un-beknown to me, I was being indoctrinated and primed for memories, but a modest, near, from turning up for weekly five-years of disappointment and tidy little ground with an un-a-side donning my 88-89 Dale the club

FAN'S EYE VIEW No 128 Rochdale A J BATEMAN

mit to peer pressure, something inside me resisted the allure of the "in" clubs of the time. My Rochdale sports bag was incongruous in the corridors of a Bedford school but at least I was being individual and if the going got too tough, the print-

ing was only on one side. As I got older, Spotland seemed much smaller, no longer the vast arena of my childhood memories, but a modest, neat, tre" complete with watering can was always certain to get a few laughs on the astro-turf. Spotland has changed in the last few years. There is a new stand and plans for another to

But by then it was too late, I had contracted a particularly virulent strain of the Rochdale bug. On moving to Glasgow, the full extent of my eccentricity became even more apparent. At least in Scotland, you knew that when someone said "Rochdale! Who the hell are they?", they meant it and were not just rudely feigning ignorance.
I got regular satisfaction

not exactly conducive to good football and therefore a factor that ought to favour Rochdale. The club shop sells anything from key-rings to match videos of a rather homely quality. I have a particular favourite of Dale thrashing Lincoln 5-1 in 1992 which includes a sensational goal by Andy Flounders

lobbed the goalkeeper from the half-way line).

In my dreams, Rochdale would be bought by a Jack Walker figure who would enable them to soar up the league into the Premiership in consecutive seasons and then win the Eube built. The old spion kop is grassed over and the ground is ropean cup in glorious style. If this happened then I would not shared with the Hornets rugby league team. Consequently, by the end of the season the pitch even mind if I were wrongly accused - on account of my Home resembles a ploughed field: Counties accent - of jumping on the Rochdale bandwagon. Failing that, a few seasons in the Secand Division would be lovely. If you are interested in writing a Fan's Eye View, please write to: Fan's Eye View Sports Desk, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary

Wharf, London E14 5DL, or

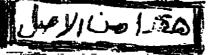
phone 0171-293 2847.

£23m grant for Hampden Scottish Football

Hampden Park was yesterday handed a £23m Millennium Commission grant towards the £51m redevelopment of Scotland's national stadium.

The ground's traditional south stand is to be demolished and replaced by a 16,000 stateof-the-art stand by 1998. It will raise the capacity to 52,000 and will include a museum, media centre and sports injury clinic. Hampden will then be given five-star Uefa status and so be eligible to stage European finals. Victory for Celtic today against struggling Falkirk at Parkhead would give Tommy

Burns' side their 12th in the league, beating last season's total of 11 wins. Celtic are four points behind Rangers, who do not play until Tucsday, when they meet Motherwell at Fir Park in a televised game.



There were less ontimistic

noises from the Football League.

whose spokesman. Chris Hull.

resterated that three-quarters

of professional players could lose their jobs. "Last season

Football League clubs received

£9m from transfer market rev-enue, which is the lifeblood to

all but a handful of sides. Some

of that will be retained because

transfers within contracts will still

continue, but there will in-

ing is implemented in its current

state, it will have immense ram-

ifications for football in this

country...As many as 75 per cent of professional footballers could lose their full-time status in this

country and the ruling will also have serious consequences for

A group likely to gain from the Bosman case are agents,

who will be able to demand

higher salaries for their players

in exchange for longer con-

tracts. Eric Hall, a high-profile

member of the breed, said it was

the best news he had heard in

"I now believe in Father

Christmas," he said. "I really do.

I owe him [Bosman] a monster

Christmas present. I'm going to

get his name and address and

small clubs will go to the wall.

"It's total rubbish to say the

send him presents.

his two decades in the game.

"If the European Court's rul-

evitably be a shortfall.

lower division clubs."

Kelly appeals for calm after Bosman verdict

Britain's football authorities were chinging last night to what is almost certainly a forlorn to the ruling. hope that it can escape the major ramifications of yesterday's Association believes clubs can decision in the Jean-Marc easily avoid transfer fees by the Bosman case. The transfer system that has existed for 100 years disintegrated into confusion at the hands of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

As expected, the court endorsed a recommendation made in September from one of its legal advisers, which backed the Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman's fight to stop clubs having the right to buy and sell out-of-contract players. Even as Rick Parry, the chief

executive of the Premier League, seized on the fact that the judges had not included transfers between clubs of the same country in the ruling, however, the escape clause was becoming narrower.

Cavid Selbourg

"The ruling should not be a cause for partic or over-reaction." he said, "particularly since, as we forecast, the judgement may only apply to transfers which involve a player moving between be levelled out." countries within the European So did the FA's chief execu-Union." Other opinion sug-

*The animal [the European transfer system is injured but round the table and talk," he the animal will die, believe me," one of Bosman's lawyers,

GUY HODGSON its on foreign players are con-

"I hope that in a few years players will remember what I did for them," added Bosman, whose five-year legal fight led

Most pertinently, the Football simple expedient of finding a



foreign club prepared to sign a player on a short-term basis. There is nothing to stop a player joining Calais FC for a

day, for example, and becoming a free agent," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said. "We beall ar proposal to the FA: "We need lieve the playing field will soon

from us is Don't panic, let's get said, appealing for all parties to discuss the implications of a ver-Luc Misson, said. "As far as lim-dict which outlaws the market system that has operated for more than a century in England.

"The worst-case scenario is that the transfer system across Europe will be unable to be maintained," he said. "Hopefully that may not be the case. I hope there will be a period of calm re-flection with Uefa and players' unions across Europe, so the wider interests of the game as a whole can be protected.

There is a worry that smaller clubs might suffer, but we hone a system that has worked in England successfully for many years can betranslated into a European system, so that all countries can benefit." The Professional Footballers'

Association and League Managers' Association believe the transfer system in France could be a prototype to follow. Players are signed as schoolboys on long-term contracts until they are 24 years old. A fee is payable if they are transferred in the interim, but when they reach the end of their contracts they are free to move on, unless they have secured longer-term deals. No fee is involved.

to have an adapted transfer system. Clubs need to continue developing their young players. We tive. Graham Kelly, who appealed for calm. "The message those youngsters until their mid those youngsters until their mid to late twenties. That is usually the time when players progress and clubs must be compensated should their players be transferred during that time."

They will also have to get into the real world, back their judgement more and give younger players longer contracts. If those players are going to be successful, they get sold on anyway. Otherwise, the likes of David Platt, Ian Rush, John Barnes etc would still be with small-type clubs.
"Andy Cole would still have

gone for the same money [£7m] because Manchester United wanted him then. They didn't want to wait two years until his contract was over. Players will still be bought and sold, and money will still be there." There is no appeal against

yesterday's verdicts and the Uefa president, Lennart Johansson, feared the worst. Describing the judgements as an attack on the sport, he said that football had been "left in a

chance of winning the European

One dissenting voice was

Gordon Taylor, chief executive

Association, who fears for Eng-

land's future. "I think this will lead to a flood of foreign play-ers coming here, which I believe

will be to the detriment of our

game. The only way to control

the number of imports will be

to ban non-European foot-

ballers from competing here."

of the Professional Footballers

Cup in 1994 otherwise.



Driving force: Wayne Riley hits his tee shot at the third

Daly makes same mistake

Sam Torrance and John Daly let out shrieks of frustration as the Johnnie Walker world championship continued to go wrong for them in the Jamaican sunshine vesterday. Both doublebogeyed the 404-yard second and then, for the second day running, the Open champion Daly hooked out of bounds at

At 12 over par - courtesy of two 80's - he was 17 shots but still had an awkward stance over Fiji's Vijay Singh in the

behind the overnight leader. close to a fence and used his Wayne Riley, while Torrance was 13 strokes adrift.

Torrance, winner of more than £1m this season, went over the second green with his approach, chipped back too to hole out.

pulled his left and nearly went into a bar. He was able to take

putter to try to get the ball back £350,000. on the green. It sped away down a slope and from there he had three more putts.

Daly, not seen on the practice range all morning, must strongly and needed three more have thought it was going to be a much better day when be It was also the second shot came off the first green with a which put Daly in trouble. He par four. He had an eight there in the first round.

Riley's 66 yesterday had a free drop away from a pipe. given him a three-stroke lead

David Feberty, a Ryder Cup

player only four years ago and ioint fourth in last year's Open. has said he is quitting the game. Feherty switched to the American tour two years ago, but this season finished 166th on the money list and lost his card. He has also split from his South African wife and says he does moment because his two children are in America.

A brief history of the Bosman case

the wholescale changes in foot- its introduction, the Cup-Win-

ball's transfer system, the silver new Cup in 1994, by Arsenal,

lining yesterday was the aboli-tion of the three-foreigner rule and Blackburn Rovers have

in the European club competi- all failed to get beyond the ear-

Wales and Northern Ireland are eigner rule for several years and

regarded as separate countries yesterday the club's vice-chair-

quence, British chibs have won comed its scrapping by the

British teams have suffered in the last three years.

1982: Jean-Marc Bosman, Web 12' grow seet 10 New Cut. Appears court signs as a professional for Beiging. Past Division club, Standard Holge.

1988: Moves in FC Liber, shorther Belgian First Division stud. for JRSC QUARTER Belgian First Division stud. for JRSC QUARTER Belgian First Division stud. for JRSC QUARTER Belgian club, for JRSC QUARTER Belgian for Division students and professional students and pro

Amid the general dismay over only one European trophy since European Court of Justice. "We

ly stages of the European Cup

for a change in the three-for-

man, Donald Findlay QC, wel-

Rangers have been lobbying

gan tootical union and I-C Dega.

September 20, 1995: Advocate general advises the Court to rule that football's system of transfers and its limits on foreign players are illegal.

November 3, 1995: Usfa issues open laine; signed by the 49 presidents of Suropean national associations, saying that the game will be split in two if the Court follows Lenz's advice;

November 24, 1995: World governing body, Flas, back Usfa and appress contem that rulent in secon of Sosman.

December 15, 1995: Court rule in taxour of Bosman. No appeal is

are delighted with the verdict,"

he said. "It means that our for-

eign players are now just Rangers

players, pure and simple, and are

Alex Ferguson, manager of Manchester United, who was

forced to juggle his teams in 1993-4 and 1994-5 in the Cham-

pions' League, was also pleased,

if a little frustrated. "It's come

two years late for us," he said,

"because we'd have had a

available for every game."

Victorious Sri Lanka seek to clear name

Cricket

West Indies 160 for 8 Sri Lanka 161 for 6 (Sri Lanka win by four wickets)

terday by defeating them in the opening fixture in the World at the time of the incident could Series and they are to seek an official apology after claiming they were not guilty of ball tampering during the first Test against Australia in Perth last week.

Thilanga Sumathipala, the vice-president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka, said his players had been wrongly found to have altered the condition of the ball. "This has done irreparable damage to Sri Lankan cricket,"

he said. "We know 100 per cent

that the players did not do this. side, who were bowled out for Before we leave Australia someone must clear us." Sumathipala criticised Gra-

and said that the umpires had condition of the ball in question not be judged by the ICC because it sustained further wear and tear during the innings. "If there is no evidence then we are not guilty."

West Indies, distracted by the dispute surrounding absent batsman Brian Lara and beset by poor form, gave a lacklustre performance as their fellow tourists cruised to victory with five overs to spare at the Adelaide Oval. Batting first after los-

Kiwis struggle against Waqar

cut through the middle order.

taking three wickets in nine

Warwickshire batsman, and

Nottinghamshire's all-rounder

Chris Cairns added 42 for the

sixth wicket before Cairns and

Lee Germon fell to consecutive

and out at 114 for 8 before

Mushtao Ahmed deliveries.

92 by the Australian Cricket Academy earlier this week, struggled again with the bat, labouring to ham Dowling, the match referee, a disappointing 160 for 8 from over his handling of the incident their allotted 50 overs. Sri Lanka recovered from los-

the woes of the West Indies yes- the damage. He argued that the innings and replied with a disciplined 161 for 6, based largely on a fine innings of 46 from 61 balls by Aravinda de Silva, who scored more freely than any other batsman on a slow, turning wicket. "We are still struggling," Richardson, the West Indies captain, said. "The way we are

playing, we just have to work a bit harder.

match.

Haq hitting 32.

hits from point.

Roger Twose, the former Pakistan's less than challenging

New Zealand seemed down among the New Zealand

All players in the triangular tournament - which also features Australia - are wearing numbers on their shirts for the first time in a match in Australia ing the toss, Richie Richardson's to help identification.

It was a poor response to

score. Only two Pakistani bats-

men got to 30, with opener

Ramiz Raja top-scoring with a

painstaking 35, and Inzmam-ul-

bowlers and Adam Parore

chipped in with two impressive

pieces of fielding to run out

Basit Ali and Wasim with direct

The second match in the se-

ries is at Christchurch tomorrow.

The wickets were spread

Hussain and White inspire **England A**

England A 225-5 (England A win by one run)

Nasser Hussain struck a brilliant century in Pakistan yesterday to help England A to a remarkable one-run victory in Peshawar. Sri Lanka fought back on two made a mistake in not replacing ing their opener. Roshan Hussain's England A team now counts yesterday. They added to the ball when they first noticed Mahanama, to the first ball of the remain unbeaten seven weeks and nine games into their Pakistan tour.

The Yorkshire all-rounder. Craig White, was also instrumental in victory, conceding just three runs from an inspired final over as England A went 1-0 up in the three-match oneday series, which ends their trip. He also made a sprightly 39 not out to help Hussain (100 not out) put on 81 in the last 10 overs of the England in-

Hussain, who has played in seven Tests - the last two years ago - must now come in back into the senior England reckoning as a result of his perfor-

to his stumps to finish the

Total (for 6, 49 evers) ______224 FeB: 1-54, 2-113, 3-157, 4-181, 5-182,

Pazzing: Headley 8-0-37-0; Munton 6-0-36-1: White 6-0-30-0; Udal 5-0-29-0; Irani 8-0-53-2; Galban 5-0-27-2 Umpires: Feroz Butt and Nazir Junior

Beerbaum accepts a 'gift' gratefully

Relief at end of 'foreigner' rule

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Olympia-

Ludger Beerbaum, the German Olympic champion, made the most of a spleadid opportunity when winning yesterday's Christmas Stocking Stakes on the second day of the Olympia Show Jumping Championships.

tions, writes Guy Hodgson.

this restriction more than oth-

ers because England, Scotland,

by Uefa. Partly as a conse-

Beerbaum, fourth last-to jump, had seen Michael tration in the arena.

Mark Foster broke the world

short-course 50 metres butterfly

record for the fourth time in two and a half years at Sheffield yes-

terday to confirm that he is in a

class of his own in the discipline.

nal of the Uncle Ben's Winter

Foster romped through the fi-

Challenge in 23.45sec, to cut a it again in February.

beatable.

"When you get a present you should take it," Beerbaum sald, after riding Avion to vic-tory over the Spaniard, with William Funnell (the best of the British) in third place on Comex. Beerbaum said his nine-year-old mount is a bit wild ("even in the stable he bites") and that he still lacks concen-

Everest My Mesieur. The "Avion is a natural jumper and leader, Spain's Cayetano Mar- a bit special, I think he will make tinez de Irujo on Elegast, was a good Grand Prix horse but ers." This fine natural horseman some 5.49sec slower than time will tell." In the meantime, has since won the World Cup

Foster lowers world record again

50m butterfly is not an Olympic

event. Poster's consolation yes-

terday came in the form of a

£5.000 borms, or offer for a world

Foster first claimed the world

record in February 1993. He

equalled it and then beat it in

March 1994, and then lowered

tenth of a second off the mark

Four British records were record-breaking in the evening's he had set in the same Ponds also broken in one of the most heats by setting a British 200m Four British records were

Forge pool earlier this year. The memorable finals session seen butterfly best of 1min 56.37sec.

record at this week's event.

Whitaker, so Beerbaum knew the German will rely on Spre-that the time was obviously the Gaylord for today's Volvo World Cup qualifier and on the mare Ratina for next year's

Whitaker have one fence down. The rest of the assessment competition was," he said. "I

one disappointment is that the at a national championships

Olympic Games. Hugo Simon, who won two contests here on Thursday for Austria, will ride Apricot D (with whom he scored the second leg of his double) in today's big class.

Beerbaum, who first com-

peted at Olympia in 1987, had to wait three years before he won his first competition here. would go home and think how far away I am from the top rid-

Ian Wilson took 6.76sec off the

British 1500m record in 14min

40.69sec, Neil Willey the claimed

the 50m backstroke record in

24.88sec, and Lucy Findley broke the women's 400m individual

medley mark in 4:40.95sec in be-

ing beaten in the final by Hana

James Hickman continued the

Cerna of the Czech Republic.

record-breaking in the evening's

contest here in 1992 on Ratina and the Grand Prix last year on Gaylord. Yesterday opening contest,

the Holly Accumulator, provided a clean sweep for French riders who filled the top three places. Herve Godignon took the top prize (by a mere 0.21sec) on Sarcelle de Sisse. O. Z.18EC) OH SALCEHE AS SASSANDON OLYMPIA SHOW ALMPING CHAMPIONSHEPS: Christmas Stocking Stalast: 1 Avon II. Beerbaum, Ger cleer, 49.10ce; 2 Elegast C. Martinez de Irulo, Sp) cleer, 53.04; 8 Corner (W Furmell, GSI cleer, 53.04; Nolly Accumulator: 1 Sarcele de Sese (H Godgrun, Fr) Söpts, 37.23ecc; 2 Ranhow de Trelon (H Bourdy, Fr)

Last has to

low-scoring match at Dunedin 48th over. New Zealand's chase got off

SPORTING DIGEST

Baskethall

36, 38.69. BRITISH EQUESTRIAN WRITERS' ASSOCIA-TION AWARDS: Equestrian Personality of the Year: A Bradby; Viven Batchet Trophy tous-randing young nider; Y Ducklet; Le Ducklet Tro-phy for commodulen to equestrian sports: 11-Col W Lithigow.

caught by a diving Ijaz Ahmed at backward point and Astle gave Wasim Akram a sharp return catch. Waqar Younis then dragged a ball from Wasim on

New Zealand 169 Pakistan win by 20 runs

Pakistan won the opening oneday international of their New Zealand tour by 20 runs in a

yesterday. Batting first after winning the toss, Pakistan struggled to 189 for 9 on a slow-paced pitch, but the Kiwis also struggled and were bowled out for 169 in the

to a bad start, with the openers Craig Spearman and Nathan Astle, departing inside the first five overs.

NBA: Indians 102 Toronto 100; Chicago 127 Adanta 108; Denier 103 New York 94, San Antonio 126 Dalles 111; Portland 116 Char-lotte 109; LA Cappers 89 Marri 84.

SUROPEAN CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP Semi-final series: Group A: Arobes 81 Bayer Lev-erlausen 82: Malaga 70 Benetton Trevas 72; Ulier Sports Club (Istanbul) 71 CSNA Moscow (Russa) B1. Group B: Maccab Tel Avv 78 Chorne Zagreb 75; Berfica 73 Real Madrid 78; Virtus Bologna 69 Panathmakos 72.

TOUR MATCH (Dumedia, NZ): Palustan 189 for 9 (50 overs) (Remz Reja 35); New Zeslend 189 (47.4 overs) (R Twose 59). Pakistan beet New Zealand by 20 runs.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL (Medicas): Eng-land 146 for 9 (50 overs) (K Smithe 38): In-dia 149 for 3 (45 overs) (A Chopra 57). India win by seven wickets and series 3-2).

Spearman was superbly

Twose and Gavin Larsen put on

a spirited 50. Twose, dropped by the

wicketkeeper Rashid Latif before scoring, worked the ball around the ground in his 93-ball

WORLD CUP EVENT (LA Plagne, Fr): Two-man bob: 1 C Langer and O Hampel (Ger-many 1) 1mm 58,44sec 159,04759.39); 2 Pierre Lueders and D McEachem (Canada 1) 1:58,98 159,38/59,60); 2= G Nuber and A Tartaglia (Italy 1) 1:59,31 (59,62/59,69) Motor racing
1996 FORMUR ONE WORLD CHAMPTONISHED
CALENDAR: 10 Moreth Australian Grand Pro.
Mebourne 31: Bazakan GP, Seo Paulo, 7 Aprilo
Argentine GP, Buenos Ares, 28: European GP,
Nuthurgrung, Germany, 5 Mayer Sen Marmo GP,
Horde, Italy, 19: Moratos GP, Morthe Carlo, 2
Jones Spanish GP, Barcelone, 16: Coneden GP,
Nortjeal, 30: Freich GP, Mary-Cours, 14 JulyBretts GP, Sheerstone, 28: German GP, Hockenteem, 11 August Hungaran GP, Burtapest,
25: Belgan GP, Spa-Francochemys, 8 September Italian GP, Moraza, 22: Portuguese GP,
Estoni, 13 October: Jepanese GP, Suguio. SHEFFIELD SHIELD (Third day of four): Melbourne: Victoria 430 for 6 dec and 160 for sp. (G Vimpani 51); Tasmania 292 (J Cox 99, Dene Hills 54, Ian Harvey 3-46).

Carlos Sainz, Spain's double world champion who lost out to Scotland's Colin McRae this year, is rejoining Ford. Same has been linked with a return to Ford ever since his switch from Subaru to Toy-Within days of the move, his new team were suspended for a year because of technical irregulanties. Sainz was later released from his contract.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP DOWNHALL (St. Anton, Art): 1 K Settinger (Gert 2mm 6.68sec. (1:03.22/1:03.46); 2 H Zurönggen (Swit)

2:07.12 (1:03.42/1:03.70; 3 A Meissnützer (Aug 2:07.29 (1:03.45/1:03.74); 4 H Undh (US) 2:07.33 (1:03.77); 03.56; 5 F Sireet (US) 2:07.34 (1:04.05/1:03.29); 5 P Sireet (US) 2:07.39 (1:04.19/1:03.50); 7 A weether (Aug 2:07.56 (1:04.02/1:03.54); 8 R Gestschi (Aug 2:07.56 (1:04.02/1:03.54); 8 R Gestschi (Aug 227.66 (1.04.02/1.03.64): 8 R Goeschi Mati 2:08.00 1.103.621-004 38). 8 B Obermose: [Aut] 2:08.12 (1.04.13/1.03.99): 10 H Zeter-Baehler (Swit) 2:08.13 1:04.07/1.04.06; 11 W Defonsata Rusi 2:08.29 (1.04.721.03.57) 12 M Defonses er (Aut) 2:08.36 (1.04.33/1.04.03; 13 M Vog (Ger) 2:08.37 (1.04.66/1.03.71): 14 H Gerj (Ger) 2:08.47 (1.03.67/1.04.80): 15= M Erl Ger) 2:08.61 (1.04.57/1.04.80): 15= M Erl Ger) 2:08.61 (1.04.57/1.04.74); I Stocki (Aux) 2:08.61 (1.04.51/1.04.10). Women's World Cup downfill stronglers, 1 Sezanger 180 points, 2 Street 140; 3 Zurtingger, 102; 4 Messenther 86; 5 Nostner 85.

Swimming
UNCLE BEN'S WINTER CHALLENGE
(Sheffield: MEN: 200m freestyle: 2. A Cayton (Cny of Leeds) Imm 46.99se;; 2 P Pamer
1:48.26: 3 5 Meiter (Cny of Birmingham)
1:48.33. 1500m freestyle: 1 I Wison (Cny
of Leeds) 1:4:40 69; 2 6 Smith (Stockport
Metro) 14.49.71; 3 G Hudson (Portsmouth
Norrisea) 15:21.72. 50m butterfly: 1 M Fester (Cny of Cardiff) 23.45se; 2 I Golowe (Cny
of Sheffield: 24.72: 3 J Salter (Cny of Birmingham) 24.96. 50m backstroke: 1 N Willey (Barnet Copthall) 24.88; 2 M Hams

Ingham) 24.96. 50m backstroker 1 N Willey (Barner Cophral) 24.88; 2 M Hors (Watman Forest) 25.16; 3 S Handley (City of Sheffield) 26.21. 4x100m medley: 1 City of Cartiff 3:43.92, 2 City of Leeds 3:47.89; 3 City of Swanses 3:48.79.

WOMEN 2000m Recessive: 1 K Braness (Neth) 1:58.43; 2 C Geurs (Neth) 1:59.58; 3 A Benner (Nova Cartunon) 2:00.13. 400m individual medley: 1 H Cerva (Cz Rep) 4:38.88; 2 L Findlay (Wycombe Det) 4:40.95; 3 H Statier (Warnegton Warner) 4:46.44, 200m backstroke: 1 J Deakins (City of Covertry) 2:12.31; 2 E Tertam (Portsmouth Northeea) 2:12.91; 3 R Shermison (Portsmouth Northeea) 2:12.91; 3 R Shemington (Portsmouth Northsea) 2:12.91; 3 R Shemington (Portsmouth North-sea) 2:14.01; 100m breaststroker; 1 J Ang (Waittam Fores) 1:09:09; 2 M Hardman (Cty of Burningham) 1:10.99; 3 S Broensdon (Cty of Coventry) 1:10.95. Steffi Graf, the joint world No 1, will be unable to defend her Australian Open tide next month after undergoing an operation for a chipped bone in her left

foot on Finday, her surgeon said. The patient wants to give herself enough time over the next few weeks to carry through the rehabilitation programme rully and Open four times, had a similar opera-A German court will decide next week ed as part of a multi-million dollar

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of players from the Dallas Cowboys (10) and the San Francisco 49ers (nine) in the National Football Conference squad for the Pro Bowl in Honolulu on 4 February. The Denver Broncos led the AFC squad with six selections.

Loughtonians at home indoors

School, writes Bill Colwill.

Midlands and at Aldenham to take the title for the fourth At Aldenham, National Champions Old Loughtonians expected to come from St Al-

The game moves indoors today squad in Egypt preparing for at the start of the mid-season near month's Olympic qualifier break with tournaments in the in Barcelona they are favourites

Their toughest opposition is onship qualifier against the will be defending their East bans, led by Andy Halliday, and winning teams from the four groups that play off today at Worcester and Kidderminster. Budweiser League so it would be hard to involve English clubs." League title. In spite of the ab- the up and coming Blueharts, sence of three key players - now coached by former St Al-

Julian Halls, Nick Thompson bans and England indoor in-and Jason Lee-with the Britain ternational Keith Rowley. In the Midlands, defeated national finalists last year, Barford Tigers, will only join in the competition tomorrow when they will contest the final stages of the Midland Club Champi-

face the end of an era The World Invitation Club Bas-

ketball tournament seems certain to disappear from the sports calendar for the first time in 19 seasons, as the founder and organiser, David Last, struggles to find an alternative date to its traditional new year slot at Crystal Palace. writes Duncan Hooper. Last hoped to move the in-

erage and sponsorship was compounded by a double booking at the National Sports Centre. The NSC can't give me the weekends either side of the Wembley play offs at the beginning of May, which would be the best option," said Last.

ternational event to later in the

season after lack of television cov-

COOLIN CLASSIC (Australia) Loading sec-ond-round scores: (Australia) Loading sec-ond-round scores: (Australias stated): 138 S Robrson 69: A Giligan 67 71. 139 S Leaney 72 67, 140 J. Edniy 71 69; S Aleet (N2) 70 70; B Jacison (Eng) 70 70. 141 R Swarson 73 68; N Smath 72 69; S Apoleby 67 74; L Trikler 71 70. 142 G Stratfold 71 71; G Dodd 68 74; N Herning (SA) 74 68; T Power 71 71; M Long (N2) 68 74; S Bouwer 72 70; P Powel (N2) 72 70; M Peterson 72 "Dates earlier than those clash with full programmes in the

Skiing

KEN JONES: Tyson is punching but the JIM WHITE: What the football frait

In Monday's 24-page sports section

> television documentary us if we have been in love for the last 10

Dean 'People still approach me and say that I was mean to Jayne; but it's normally tongue in cheek.

lan Stafford talks to Britain's most famous sporting double act about life after the Olympics



Ken Jones reports from Philadelphia on Mike Tyson's second comeback

England's victorious cricketers



Karen Smithies captain of the England women s cricket team. describes how her team won their Test series in India

England's victorious cricketers?

Derek Pringle and Tim de Liste report from Durban on the third Test between England and South Africa

Quick on the draw Sunday's draw for the 1996 European Championship and Guy Hodgson reports on the Liverpool and Manchester United. Plus extensive coverage of all the weekend action, including reports from every Premiership match, and That Was The Weekend That Was, the alternative guide to football

One more try Steve Bale and Time Glover report from Twickenham as England take on Western Samoa in their final international of the year

Sports book of the week Richard Edmondson on racing Greg '

...and Tim Giover has The

Final Word

THIRD TEST: Donald the batsman frustrates England and then resorts to type by dismissing Atherton and Thorpe



Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

England's day, as the ball clat-tered back past the him for four.

The was then that England

relaxed, as they so offer do

when faced with unexpected

supremacy. Having watched

the majority of the South

African batting order self destruct, England clearly

suit, and sat back waiting for the ?..

presumed the tail would follow

South African aggression pays off

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Durban South Africa 225; England 123-5

For an hour it was all England. South Africa, their innings in tatters at 153 for 9 were ready to fall. But these are hardy folk, used to battling uncertainty and hopeless causes and their tailenders rallied to record their side's highest partnership of the innings. Six hours later when bad naiteg p England who were faltering, half their side gone for 125, and their batting shredded by the South African pace bowlers.

It was an object lesson in unstinting aggression and one England should take on board if they are ever to make the running. As has been evident for some time now, Atherton's team have become over-reliant on him, rarely making matchwinning totals unless he happens to play one of his lengthy onepaced anchor roles. Without them, England do not seem to have the spine from which to hang their more flamboyant contributions and are often ren-

dered inverterbrate as a result. Yesterday he was out in the first over of England's innings. thick-edging a hasty jab to Andrew Hudson at fine gully, as Allan Donald finally homed in on off-stump with the final ball of a rapid over.

Four overs later he struck again, when Thorpe edged a ball slanted across him to first slip. The batsman stood his ground convinced the ball hadn't carried to Cullinan, who had in fact taken a finely judged catch, rightfully upheld by the square-

leg umpire . With John Crawley spending most of the afternoon icing his hamstring hoping not to bat, Thorpe was promoted to fill the fated No 3 spot. He has tried it once before, without notable success. Presumably, it is his lefthis promotion above Hick, who deccipied the position on 33 previous occasions for England.

At 12.15 yesterday - just after lunch, here in the City of Bad

Light - John Crawley appeared

on the England balcony wear-

ing only a shirt, a bandage and

an air of resignation. The TV au-

dience was treated to a glimpse

of his bare buttocks, which was

inelegant but not inappropriate. Crawley may well spend the rest

His pulled hamstring car-

ried a double irony. Selected in

order to beat the curse of Eng-

land's No 3, Crawley suc-

of the tour on his backside.

trated itself in Donald's direction. This was blood lust on a grand scale and their was no audible amnesty for old boy Robin Smith when he marched to the crease with the score 13 for 2.

Judging from the way he slashed his first ball high over the slips for four, Smith was mainliùing pure adrenalin as 14 runs came off the first five balls he faced. Smith is a determined cove, but the huge debt sidi teels he owes to thos who helped him here in his youth has derburded him with pressure. His dismissal for

cumbed to it before putting on

his pads. This was his second re-

call of the year, after he left Aus-

tralia with a pair in Perth and

a reputation for obesity. Each

time he has worked hard to get

back, both in the middle and in

the gym, he is now a skinny

near-skinhead, not unlike Tom

Hanks half way through

Philadelphia. The crowning

irony is that when Crawley was

His undoing was just one of those things, although coming 48

runs into a last-wicket stand, it

did make the Devon Malcoim

fan club wonder whether Eng-

fat, he staved fit.

At this point, most of the crowd on the grassy knoll man worried by old debts.

Alec Stewart, who has not Alec Stewart, who has not scored a Test match fifty since South Africa played England at the Oval in 1994, was next to go for 41. He was given a torrid time by all the bowlers especially Pollock and Matthews, who by

land would still have been out

there if their man had been se-

do what they probably should have done all along: play an es-

tablished batsman at No 3. The

dubious honour went to Gra-

ham Thorpe who duly got out

in single figures. For the final two Tests, Mark Ramprakash

must be in with a chance - an-

other last chance. But the man-

agement could be forgiven for

England were half-rescued by

Stewart and Smith, who put on

almost as many as South

preferring Nasser Hussain.

The injury forced England to

limiting their bouncers this time, made them harder to predict and thus avoid. Stewart's loose slash to Hud-son in Manually gave Matthews son in Siguily gave Matthews his 50 ff sest wicket, though his 51st should be accredited to JODIV KITOGES terception of firm square cut w wild` salmon snapping up a favourite

cricket when coming from be-hind, England having found themselves in the overnight driving seat, forgot to keep the accelerator down after their bowlers again begun the morning session well.

Brian McMillan, so often South Africa's saviour in the late middle-order was first to go, drawn forward by one from Peter Martin that bounced to take the edge. Jack Russell completing the dismissal with a right in front of first slip. . This was the wicket England

most wanted and when Jonty

Africa's last pair. Both men are

in the grip of an odd sequence.

This was Smith's ninth consec-

utive Test dismissal between

30 and 90, and Stewart's sixth

in seven innings between 34 and

45. There is a fine line between

appointment, and Smith is one

side of it, Stewart the other.

Stewart wields a bat with a

flourish that no other English-

man can match, but it is now 16

months since he waved it in ac-

batting coach, keeps stressing

the value of the big individual

Second day of five; South Africa wha to

Second day of the; South Africa who SOUTH AFFECA – First husings. (Deemight; 139 for 5): N Brodes low b liot: 182 min. 132 belts, 4 fours! M McMillan e Russell b Martin 7 min. 81 belts, 3 fours! D I Reservision e Russell b lion 12 min. 36 belts; 1 fours! M Polinck; South 1 fours! 14 min. 56 belts; 1 fours! R Martinians tow b liot.

Patres (0.1, (b.1)
Total (406 shb, 100 evers) 225Pall (cost): 6-141 (Michilizal), 7-152 (Rhoded), 8-153 (Richardson), 9-153

John Edrich, the England

knowledgement of a 50.:

consistency and consistent dis-

As is so often the case with the morning went soon after, a team that plays most of its best . Ibw to Mark Ilott's second ball, the hard work seemed over. Swinging the old ball both ways, llott redeemed Thursday's insipid spell by removing Dave Richardson, who wafted an edge obligingly to Russell, and Craig Matthews, lbw to another inswinger in the same over.

At that stage South Africa were 153 for 9 and sporting the sort of pallor that usually results in a month's enforced quarantine. It was not a hue shared by Hott, who finding himself on a ment. But if Hott pitchedfall in the kepe that South Africa No the kepe that South Assessing the Land Donald, would saisjudge the swing being

score. But Hansie Cronje knows

that Stewart can't resist going

for his shots. He set two gullies

for him, and Stewart picked out

the finer of the two like a South

African cameraman homing in

To be fair, no one has

reached 50 in this curious en-

counter. South Africa's innings

was a five section roller coast-

er - three 50 partnerships, sep-

arated by two feeble processions. England's reply

was the same in miniature. The

upshot is that the match, and the

series, could be decided by one

of those big individual scores.

KINGSMEAD SCOREBOARD

inevitable to happen. It did, eventually, but not until 72 precious runs had been added and the home side had One further boosted once it became known that Crawley had badly damaged his hamstring trying to pull up Pollock's book off Martin. Despite their lapse England

would clearly have settled for bowling the opposition out for 225. And with Cork not taking a wicket in the innings for the first time since his debut last summer, England's bowling selections will have appeared justified, even inspired, and few could have predicted flott and Martin would be sharing seven of the wickets last Wednesday

night.
With Illingworth being his usual miserly self with 3 for 39 off 29 overs, the selectors can clearly pat themselves on the A back on some shrewd selections. But this is a two innings game and so far South Africa's pace appears to have given them the

(13 min. 7 bers. 2 min. 100 min. 7 bers. 2 min. 40.3 overs). 223 Fatte 1.2 (Atherton). 2-13 (Thomas. 3-8 (Smith), 4-93 (Smearc). 5-109 (Smith), 4-93 (Smith), 4-93

A rosy-faced car

scrutinising the

up at his father

Dad, who's the

Dad looks in V

wife, 'It's on the

my tongue...

LINE 21064

Alternative .

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the excellent Chambers Biographical Dictionary, worth £35. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London £14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode. Last week's winners were: S Fountain, Middlesex, Ken Massingham, Taunton, Somerset; Cliff Mitchell, Malmesbury; Roger Hund, Kintbury; Mrs VA Care, Belfast. **ACROSS**

Take steps to give the beholder an eyeful?

- 5 Walks stiffly when game's over (6) 2 10 Single status requires qualification (9, 6) 11 Cord, length three feet, used for wrapping 3
- article (7) an Old Boy, drained, walked with difficulty (7) Female figured in holdup? (8) Succeed in trimming pieces of green
- suede (5)
 Painter determined to rebut charges (5) 20 Good time to play snooker, maybe? (4-4)
 23 Halter neck originally designed to fasci-
- nate (7)
 Flexible response from defendant, mostly about return of surety (7) Kindly attitude evinced in restoring deranged son to us (4-11) Big cals recently extinct? (6)
 Dangerous position in which writer's
 caught by piece of broken crockery (5, 3)



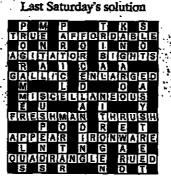
DOWN 1 Trunk in which you'll find very black ball of

> ter in rising (9) Those people must bear charge for treatment Game between France and Germany's a disas-

ter, naturally (5)
Male with high-pitched voice about to quaver Artist endlessly cross about painting (5)

Prohibition formerly indicated in schedule (8) House by railway woman offers character on

Set of very brief notes? (8)
Unusual setting for garnets (7)
Foreign currency obtained by female group leader carrying sterling (7)
Learned some French clergyman's turned up



stance assumed by desperate charac

Firmer ride with seat adjusted (8)
Plant's old phase to be demolished (8)

Hammer-thrower comes upon new source of 25 Dry as a Catholic entering a public house? (5)

English clubs pay for Intertoto fiasi berth again, but yesterday Uefa

44 mais C fabrics
A I Season of Hotory in Machine
(1307mm; 35 banks, 57 founds;
G P Trouble C Continues in Bourist
(177 mbs.), 11 maintain
R A Schiff o Machines in Marris
(36 mbs.) 73 banks in Future
(37 https://dx.doi.org/10.1007

The fiasco of persuading un-willing clubs to compete in the Intertoto Cup last season has cost England a fourth Uefa Cup place next season.

igland carned an extra place because of domestic clubs good behaviour in European competitions, and the country's teams again led the Fair Play rankings, ahead of Sweden, Russia and Finland in 1994-95. That entitled them to the extra

took away that benefit because of the attitude displayed by Totenham and Wimbledon towards the competition, which proved unpopular in England even though it provided a route into last season's Uefa Cup. Neither Tottenham nor Wim-

bledon could use their home ground and borrowed youngsters from other clubs to replace established players after originally declining to compete. Uefa's president, Lennart Johansson, said an extra Uefa

Cup place was not and due to the conduct of ham and Wimbledon in last sea-

son's Intertoto Cup."

Graham Kelly, the Eschell
Association's chief elective. said: "We realised the situation was not best handled in England and we apologised profusely to Ucfa several times. Things w complicated when the date of the draw was brought forward. Clubs thought they had options. They made the best of a bad job in their view but it was not shared by Uefa's executive committee."

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London 5:14 SDL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St. Albans Road, Warford

Saturday 16 December 1995 Registered at a novempaper with the Post Office



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If your boss has given you Christmas day off...

.14-19



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TODAY'S TV & RADIO28

TELIBLANCH - CONDE DE CARALT - COVIDES - FREIXENET - ROGER GOULART - SEGURA VIUDAS



AND A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU TOO



Pictures by Brian Harris.
Shory by Jonathan Glancey





wo fortyish blokes - paunches, weighty wristwatches, big jewellery - are checking out the Disney store in the vast Lakeside "regional shopping centre" in Thurrock, Essex. They are evidently brothers doing the Christmas shopping. Big Brother picks up a Tigger (there are dozens of them, whatever Tigger himself might claim).

"Forty-five nicker for a Tigger. You have to pay the extra in Lakeside, don't you?" Not-so-big Brother inspects Tigger's pricey tag.

'So, why do we keep coming here, then?" Big Brother tosses Tigger back on to a soft mountain of Pinocchios and Pocahontases.

As they walk out, the ever-so-nice Walt Disney "greeter" smiles a smile that would melt Cruella de Ville's heart.

"Thank you for coming. Merry Christmas. Have a nice day."

The brothers waddle off, Tiggerless and uncomprehending, into the infinite aisles of this air-conditioned Xmas Essex pantechnicon, easing their way past the Café Giardino where a fight has broken out

between two young women.
"You just leave him alone, you bitch," screams one as she hurls a bowl of nice 'n' hot lasagne at the other. The brothers vanish into the throng that has gathered around the Nativity scene. The baby Jesus is sprawled on a cot surrounded by Mary, Joseph, and sprawled on a cot surrounded by Mary, Joseph, and the Three Kings; there is a lot of automated headwagging. Baby Jesus is swaddled in sacking and a horde of copper coins. The Yuletide custom at Lakeside, it appears, is to throw money at Jesus for a bit of seasonal luck. A child is complaining that he hasn't got any money left; his grandmother says, "Well, throw a crisp at him instead." The rosy-faced cherub sends a prayer cocktail flavoured grand for the property of the contract of the con a prawn cocktail-flavoured snack flying towards God the Son. A second cherub scrutinising the crib looks

up at his father and asks, "Dad, who's the baby?" Dad looks hopefully at his wife, but she is wrestling with a second child.

"It's on the tip of my tongue..." he says. (Perhaps he's the same man I saw selling crosses and crucifixes at Whitechapel market. "You can have the plain one," he suggested helpfully, "or the one with the

In Beatties, a railway modeller's paradise, two parents are arguing. "He wants the black Power Rangers helmet, not the red one." "He doesn't; he's already got the black one."

"No, he hasn't." "Yes, he has. When did you last look in the kids"

bedroom, then?" Another couple are demanding a discount at the cash desk. They want a scale-model Porsche 911 and

Dodge Viper (£14.99 each).
"I'll give you £25 for the pair, and that's tops," says

"We don't do discount."

"Well, stuff it, then," says Dad. "And a Happy Christmas to you, too."

In Jigsaw World, Malcolm and Joan are considering Granny's present. "Gran's senile," says Joan.

"She won't appreciate a present, so there's no point

getting one. Saves a few quid."

Nobly, Malcolm refuses to play

Scrooge. "No, the old girl'll like this," he says, picking up a "35 Years of Coronation Street" 1,000piece puzzle, a snip at £7.99. "And if Gran can't do it," adds Malcolm thoughtfully, "we can always give it to your aunty for her birthday." In Globe: The Discovery Store,

Glenn reckons Pat should get a "How to put on a condom" T-shirt ("1. Make sure you have a willy") for her dad's Christmas stocking.

"No," she says dismissively, "I'm getting him a pair of windscreen wiper motors from Jeff at work."

And so the spirit of Christmas only-too-present lives on in the shopping malls of Britain. Today, the high of balty Leave briggs foith home and the spirit of the shopping malls of Britain. birth of baby Jesus brings faith, hope and shopping.

And the greatest of these is shopping.

By the Lakeside's Trafalgar Square-high Christmas tree, soaring up from Jack Frost's Magic Kingdom, two elderly ladies are sharing a packet of cheese and tomato sandwiches wrapped in tin foil.

"I'm fagged out," says the first. "I've had it up to here with Christmas shopping. It's the last time..."

The second swallows a chunk of Cheddar and says: "Just like last year then..."

They burst out laughing. They appear not to notice of two large men walking by cradling 90 quids' worth of plastic Tiggers.

THIS WEEKEND WHY NOT.



READ **Some Phoenix Sixties**

Be the first on your block to investigate the Phoenix Sixties. You know the miniature books published by Penguin to celebrate their 60th anniversary, the nice marketing idea which turned into a surprise, runaway bestseller and upset the heavyweights? Well, here comes the bandwagon. Phoenix House are bringing out 50 more bite-size book-eites. They include essays on louche and hedonistic subjects by Catullus... and Epicurus, a chapter of Gulliver's Travels. stories by Kipling (above), Lawrence and de Maupassent, polemics by Paul Johnson (now there's a nice present for someone), The Communist Manifesto (ditto), Pepys's diary entries about the Great Fire of London, and scads of love poetry for the love-object-withthe-limited-attention-span in your life. Theoretically out on 22 December, they're in the shops now, waiting for a nod and a wink. 60p each, or £30 for the whole bonsai library



This is your chance to take in a Holomovie. Pardon? You've seen holograms, now gasp at the Holomovie, the first hardware free means of transmission for missing images, designed by Chris Levine af London's quessily named holographic studio, "eye'see!". Thanks to exciting technological developments, it is now possible to record four seconds of continuous movement via the magic of digital holography. So what's on this one? Freddie Mercury dancing and singing on Queen's 1986 Magic Tour (above). This desirable gadget was commissioned for Ultimate Queen, a 20-CD limited edition boxed set of sublime. pomp-rock, but you can save a few quid by going to see the original, which has been installed in the Museum of the Moving Image - always worth a trip, with or without young ones - as a historic plece of viewing techno-gear. plece of viewing techno-gear.

MOMI, South Bank, London SET (0) 71-928 3535), 10am-6pm daily

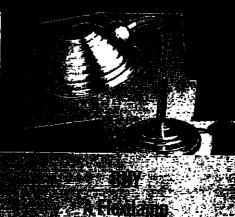


Chances are, if you are did sinting? In the time newspaper, you see old enough it remember out allent mems who made a career of sithing on Harry Carbett's hand and whispering in discease the and his partner-in-citine Sweet (he of the long ears and hig squeak), plus long suffering Soo, not to mention Butch, Kipper and Ramsbottom (dog, cat and snake respectively), conspired to make Harry's life hell, much to the amusement of legions of small viewers who first spotted him on a TY talent night in 1952. Harry's son Matthew inherited the family business in 1976 and has been looking after our business in 1976 and has been looking after our furry friend ever since. All of us appears to carch up on Sooty's career will be amazed to learn that he is about to boldly go where no bear has some before. Tom Hanks and Apollo 13, eat your heart.

out. Flead for Bradford.

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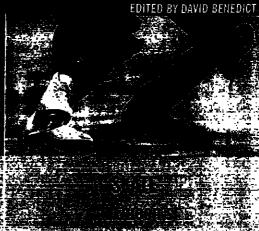


The Fleddamp is one of the smartest and cheepest of modern desk top lights. It looks as if it might have been designed lest year by Philippe Stanck the of the stalking lemon squeezer and the bashed; steek interiors of New York's smartest hotels) but, remarkably, it dates from as long ago as 1925. No one remembers the name of the Spanish designer who shaped it, which is a shape, as whoever he or she was deserved. of the Spanish designer who shaped it, which is a sharine, as whoever he or she was deserting thanks and recognition. The Flexillamp is making than a conventional anglepoise and will a little less versable. Its brushed altimination shade makes effective and pretty use of altimizers 40% bulb. Because the Flexillamp costs 1991.

40% bulb. Because the Flexillamp costs 1991.

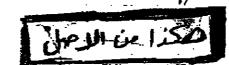
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Whether as conventional desk languages in:
Whether as conventional desk languages are:

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stating on the Thanks but alsewhere in the accounty, you never can tell. Whatever happens, how is the time to sip down to your local rink and strap on those hashing blades. Don some said strap on those hashing blades. Don some said strap on those hashing blades. Don's one said strap on those hashing blades. Don's bard that the said strap of the light of the said sense of both pay (If you confide levels, but the stock of by the Light of the Staty was on watch the Sonta Hanie season out builds of states), so don't you think it's high time you then that the suell?

Cheart's be Statist that the seek some to be said to the state of the said that seek some seek statist that the said that seek some seek statist that the said that seek some seek statist that the said that seek some seek some seek said pass for rinks are and the causey.



interview

for trend-hungry corporate clients. This, you could say, is the silver-service side of his operation. As Peter York, the former style editor of Harpers & Queen and best-selling author of The Sloane Ranger's Handbook, Style Wars and Modern Times, he whists up clever dishes of Zeitgeist analysis and pop-culture assessment, pleasing epicurean palates with his deft decodings of urban type and their vanities.

professional with the popular touch, major new book and television series to his name: Peter York's Eighties - the Winter Collection of the negative equity set.
More than any other British writer,

York was responsible for inventing what became known in the early Eighties as "style journalism". As defined in his essays for Harpers & Queen, York's I am not a standard text on their new school of journalism was a mock-things, which is rather annoying beroic exercise in understanding society by reading its surface - a brilliant a standard text. There's so many cureat's cradle of conceits and counter-studies courses nowadays, you see. conceits in which seemingly petty details were the chies to entire social shifts and witty tag-lines became anthropological equations. All those "Carolines" and "neurotic boy outsiders" (to use a couple of York's terms) could be held in the aspic of pop structuralism and studied at our leisure. either as aspirational types or pitiable examples of chronic self-delusion. York - a master of his art - was always extremely careful not to taint the game with moral judgements or political opinions he left us to work it out for ourselves. Now in his late forties, Peter York appears to have grown into his

to get out there like the great French novelists of the 19th century and study life. I am a Tom Wolfe fan of the first order. When you get inside a literary novel you feel that the author, more often than not, just doesn't know things. They haven't all, it was one thing entertaining the heren accounted to get out the great French. been around enough - novelists never readers of Harpers & Queen with what to anywhere. Once I discovered true Ezra Pound had defined in 1920 as "the books about real things - books like How To Run a Company — I stopped erated grimace", and quite another reading novels. I loved the idea of being 10 years into your own company Money by Martin Amis because it had and being paid huge fees to tell the age such a wonderful title. I assumed that why its grimace was accelerating. No such a wonderful title. I assumed that it must be about money, and what money does to people's lives. But then I read the book and it wasn't about money at all! And I thought, 'What a bloody con! This person doesn't understand money; the whole thing is a com-plete... shower."

With his gloriously plummy accent (Sebastian Flyte meets Terry Thomas) and his immaculate City suits, Peter York took his essays on style to the TV screen in a series called Hey Good Looking!, in which he appeared to play Mephistopheles to a generation of Fausts who were determined to make a contract with Style. Later on, in a mid-Eighties folly of a television drama entitled Lygmalion, this Mephistophelean role was intensified when York played himself, explaining to Sting (from a High Place not a kiwi fruit's throw from the Institute of Contemporary Art) the plate tectonics of metropolitan society and the perilous topography of the capital's road to glamour. If was a Bildungsroman for Thatcher's first children - a Pilgrim's Progress for redundant New Romantics. architecture, and he was an altogether York, you could say, is a Dickens who has never written a novel and an Andy Warhol who has never picked up a paintbrush, the embodied conclusion of me lots." Oscar Wilde's pronouncement that

At SRU, the Peter Wallis side of
"all art is quite useless". Why bother Peter York is applying the serious
to make art when real life can be so
grown-up) findings of his spectroabsorbing? Far better, surely, to make
graphic ability to read the blips and
money. And Peter York has made squeaks in the Zeitgeist to research for
loads of money.

loads of money.

Companies who want to understand
With the instinct for realism that more about their markets. And, to relates him to the novelists of the 19th judge from his elegant and well-century, and the penchant for nouveau appointed office, he's clearly very good century, and the penchant for nouveau Bohemia and millionaires that links at it. It is this aspect of his work, one him to Warhol, York should have done suspects, that has positioned him so something fairly significant in the arts. well to have a theory about the Eight-The fact that he hasn't, but has taken ies. "Most of our work here is conan artist's psychology and applied it to cerned with the Big Picture' - What To management consultancy, makes him Do. This makes it sound as though I'm a fairly easy target for cynics and down on the lovely marketing profesdefractors. But he is sure, not to say proud, of his elusive identity. The labeller, after all, should not be we're in the business of strategising the labelled. "In 1987," he says, "I did the South Bank Lecture - Punk and Pageant. I thought that was quite should we be in Europe? If so, in what extraordinary. You know, up until then way? How do we pin together a busi-they'd had real intellectuals and then ness made out of separate acquisitions they had me - which was rather curi- to make it a coherent whole? And so ous. I think the year before they'd had George Steiner, what came over them bit of fancy language - a concept that I'll never know. With regards to being we call the 'Human Agenda', which is an intellectual, that's me out now. Because I find myself starting a lot of relationships that make a company books and never finishing them. I used work to read a lot of books. Now, I mean, I York just get things. For instance, my way

Human Agenda could be seen to be the

of dealing with the entire Brat Pack basis of his new television series and of dealing with the entire Brat Pack

eter York is the Delia Smith of cultural studies. Under his real name of Peter Wallis, at his management consultancy company SRU, he prepares great banquets of data and research son? I don't want to read it; I know it's son? I know it's son a disgusting book.' I was deeply shocked. I'm Sir Herbert Gusset about things like that - 'Disgusting book?'
Well, if it's a disgusting book I won't read it!' What is your attitude, incidentally, to gangsta rap music? What is your feeling on the matter?"

This is a typical Yorkian speech: the slightly bullish tones of a man impersonating a Daily Telegraph reader give way to the italicised exclamations of a Like Delia Smith, Peter York is a man impersonating an off-duty equerry; then, just when you think you've got the articulating the grand and the complex measure of the character, a question in a language that we can all understand and try out at home on our friends. And, like Smith, York has a winging in to catch you off your guard. It is a technique that York has honed in his writing and broadcasting to wed Dandyism to demographics and got away with it.

"I think that most cultural studies people are most likely to want to be some latter-day Dick Hebdige, because because you get a lot of money if you're a standard text. There's so many cult

"But I'm certainly not a person who spends their every waking moment soaking themselves in signs and signals of the sort that cult studies people study; and it's partly, I suppose, because some of those signs and signais aren't worth bothering about. You have to be selective about these things. This may sound insulting to some of my cult studies friends, but there's a lot of cult studies people who ignore, shall we say, the wider canvas - because they simply don't know about its existence or they don't know how it operates... "

And there's the rub - or one of the ambiguously magisterial position.

Tubs, at least, York is the King of the Style Watchers almost despite himself out in Tom Wolfe's New Journalism — It's as though he knows the essential uselessness of that particular art unless age demanded an image of its accelmere poet of the pundits, Peter York could entertain the youngsters while playing big business with the grown-ups but he was telling them both the same

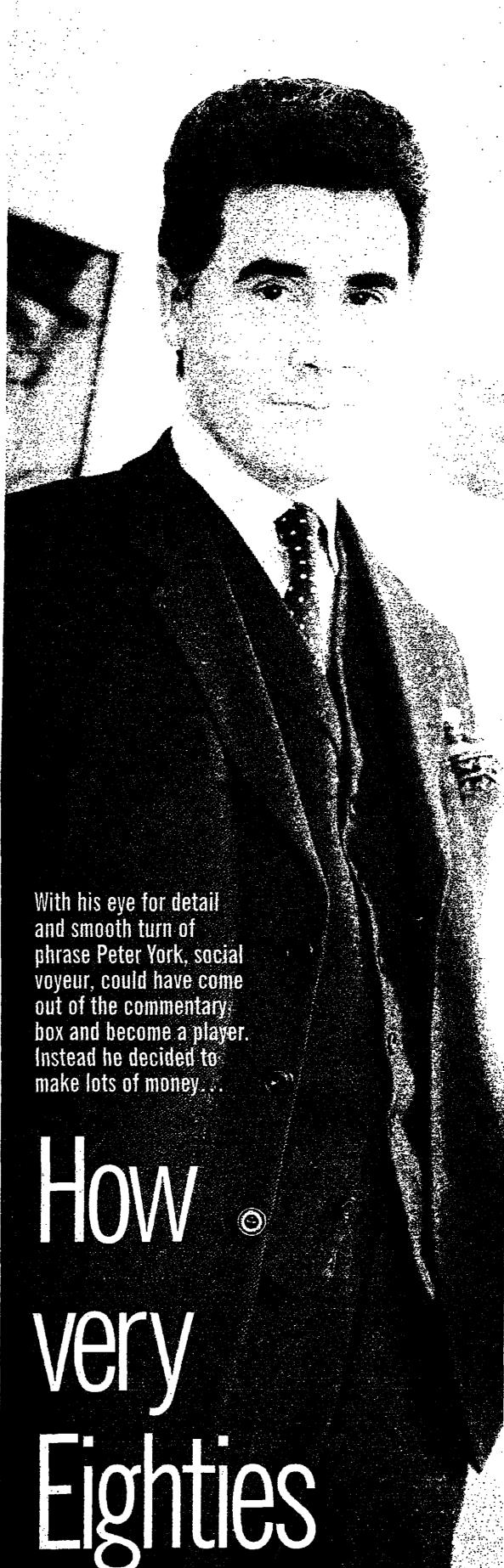
"After doing bad A-levels at a progressive school in Hampstead, I wandered around a bit and sold things in the Portobello Road. Dealership appealed to me but I didn't know how to do it. Then I did a little stint trying as an advertising trainer; this was in the late Sixties and advertising seemed insanely glamorous. It was a completely new art and a rather un-English thing to do, and I thought it was

absolutely wonderful.

"But through that, I met a man called Conrad Jameson who was kind enough to employ me. He was really very interesting and he taught me most of what I know. I think. Tve been thinking about this recently: he was a kind of proto-Peter York. He did strategic research, but his real love - and he got on telly about it - was architecture. He also wrote for the Sunday Times on inspirational employer. I worked for him from 1969 through to when we founded SRU in 1973, and he taught

At SRU, the Peter Wallis side of companies who want to understand sion, which I'm not. But they're in the business of making things happen, and things that they make happen. So typical problems will be in the order of: on. Quite a lot of it is based on our own all to do with understanding the set of

York's professional concept of the ocurves was, as they emerged - Brett book about the Eighties. Peter York's [Easton Filis], Tama [Janowitz], Jay Eighties, appearing in a massive phase [McInerriy]—to go out, buy them, put of national denial of that most complex



Interview by Michael Bracewell Photograph by Glynn Griffiths

and febrile of decades, is a hugely risky undertaking. After all, we are still looking for someone to blame for the Eighties and, having tried to pin it all on Duran Duran, we might set our sights on Peter York. The series is divided into six alliteratively titled sections: Pioneers, Property, Pushers, Paradise, Plutocrats and Post. York, often filmed in the style of a pop video. gives his theory of the last decade while interviewing a selection of Tory intellectuals who skulk in anonymous rooms like war criminals and former advertising and Soho types who look rather lost like so many Bryan Ferrys with the batteries taken out.

"In the series, when we look at the profit and loss account of the Eighties. we come to the conclusion that the economic agenda would almost have to have been done by almost any govern-ment of any colour that wished to survive. In other words, if the Labour Party had been in office, it would have had to have invented Tony Blair and his agenda. But what they left out of count was the cultural agenda; there was this fascinating combination of a radical economic agenda with an amazingly conservative social agenda. The radical economic agenda worked and the conservative social agenda simply didn't. They were tearing in absolutely opposite directions.

So to say, on the one hand, that we want 'the market will decide', and on the other 'warm beer and village greens', is completely impossible. And they didn't recognise the impossibility of those things: the poverty of the imag-ination was that it didn't begin to grapple with the social consequences of the agenda or plan in any way for them. So now, in the Nineties, the basic economic job is done but the social and cultural job is crying out to be done. But don't go away with the idea that this is the Newsnight Annual..."

But the series does make fascinating viewing, whether you love or loathe its subject, and it does raise an interesting conundrum of moral and social perception. Also, it is forced to tackle the question of social responsibility in relation to "style journalism" and the somewhat soulless practice of impir mediation.

soulless practice of ironic mediation.
"What the series is designed to do is to get to grips with people's complicated feelings about the Eighties. And the more clever and complicated the people, I found, the more complicated their feelings. The contrast between whatever reason, and the oral history that said 'this was great', led me to think that somehow this had to be resolved this is one of those absurd contradictions. People would ring me up at the beginning of the Nineties and say, 'It's the Nineties. Can you perceive a trend?' And my answer was. 'You may say it's the Nineties, but all I can see is a lack of Eighties-ness - a massive set of defaults. And that's what provoked me to want to explore those sets of Eight-

ies' feelings."
In some ways, Peter York's Eighties takes his concept of the Human Agenda, as conceived at SRU, and employs it to make a 19th-century novel out of the decade that was, after all, "the best of times and the worst of times". Even the term "Human Agenda", calls up the Flaubertian "Human Condition" and the Balzacian "Human Comedy". And yet there is something not quite right about all of this. There is almost a sense that Peter York is comprised of two performance artists. York and Wallis, who can slip in and out of one another's characters to suggest a third, invisible persona - a Peter X. Peter X can wear either the mask of the sober business man or the mask of the dandyish style guru: Peter X, whether behind his desk at SRU or in front of the cameras at the BBC, can sub-contract aspects of his personae to an army of researchers and assistants, applying Warhol's Factory technique to the maintenance of his compelling and lucrative identity: Peter X, as Wallis and York, can play the audiences for his two roles off against one another. Peter X, I suspect, is at heart a punk, making cash out of chaos by mixing subversion with comedy.

When I explain this theory to Peter York, he bursts out in a glorious and endearing shout of laughter. "Don't tell anyone," he murmurs. "Subversion. like creativity, is not a word to use in mixed company."

'Peter York's Eighties' starts on Saturday 6 Jan, BBC2; published by BBC Books 11 Jan, £12.99

FACES OF THE EIGHTIES

Cover photographs (left to right) First row: Adam Ant, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Arthur Scargill, Bob Geldof, Neil Kinnock, Daley Thompson, David Puttnam

Second row: Dawn French, Princess Diana, Peter York, Eddie Shah, Michael Heseltine. Jennifer Saunders, Ian Botham

Third row: Joan Collins, Jonathan Ross, Gerald Ratner, Jilly Cooper, Lord Hanson, Margaret Thatcher Fourth row: Lenny Henry, Lynne Franks,

Morrissey, Martin Amis, Paul Smith, Sarah

Brightman, Harry Enfield Fifth row: Teresa Gorman, Tina Brown, Peter Stringfellow, Sade, Anita Roddick, Boy George, Maurice Saatchi

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There is more to it than holly and ivy

Make your decorations from chilli peppers, pomegranates and walnuts. By Anna Pavord



ien, in a rush of blood to the head, we got rid of our twisty willow, Salix x tortuosa, I didn't have Christmas in mind. I resented the willow's rate of garden in a predatory frame of mind, sizing up what is likely to be useful for decorating the twisty branches made good shapes against the sky. Silvered, the branches can be stuck in a bucket of sand, and splayed out in a corner of a room to support silver rain, or lights, or very

Beech is good for that, too, with its elegant pointed buds, but over the years I have cut all the lane outside. Instead of, Miss Haversham style, commanding "Play, boy, play" I could shout "Climb, boy, climb" and be rewarded with a cascade of twiggy branches.

The cruise round the garden is usually folfor decurations that we can make at home. Most of what happens here by way of decoration is the same every year, because that is the point of Christmas, but now and again I need to remind myself that there is a world beyond ivy.

Red chilli peppers seem to be the craze this Christmas. They are everywhere, wired on to wreaths, woven into garlands, clustered under ribbon ties to make Christmas tree decorations. Signs that the kitchen cupboard was the in-place to raid for ornaments rather than food were visible last year, when dried orange slices at outrageous prices, and restrained sticks of cinnatrend has intensified.

Christmas colour, instead of being bright and glittery, red and silver, has been wound down several notches to a subfuse spectrum of rust, ochre, oxblood and tan, with perhaps a discreet smudge of gilding to go with it. Our shambolic

not too perfectly so, with the little dry tufted calyx at the top, which is where its flower once

If you don't mind wasting the pomegranates, growth, the way it was taking over the space meant for apples and pears, and the distiguring disease that affected its summer foliage. Now that I am cruising round the distiguring disease that affected its summer foliage. Now that I am cruising round the sugar over them. It gives them a pleasingly frozent look. If you want to use the seeds, cut a hole at the base of the fruit, scoop out the seeds with a teaspoon and pack the centre with house this Christmas, I miss it. It was always bet-ter in winter than in summer, when the bare tissue to mop up the wet. Stand the fruit in the airing cupboard to dry out before you spray

They look good heaped in a bowl with clementines and the dark green leaves of holly, bay or camellia. Or you can wire them on to a wreath. First find your wreath. Paperchase has beautifully simple ones made from vine trimmings twisted round in a circle, then sprayed the beech within reach on our old trees. Perhaps I should kidnap a tractable passer-by in now is the moment. It should be done this side of Christmas, before the sap starts to rise.

Twist the stems into the wreath shape before they dry and get brittle, but dry off the wreath before you try to spray it. The advan-tage of using this kind of base is that it is beaulowed by a snoop around Paperchase or some equally trendy venue, to pick up a few new ideas on it. And the vine stems make easy anchoring points for wired-on pomegranates, nuts, sprigs of evergreen, little red apples or whatever else you want to put on them. Fir cones, sprayed lightly and dusted with glitter would look good with the pomegranates.

You can also make wreath bases from chicken wire rolled up to make a sausage and then bent round into a circle. Proper florists stuff theirs with moss. I don't usually bother with any stuffing. You can disguise the wire very quickly by poking in evergreens all the way round the wreath. If you push hard, some of the leaves go through the holes in the chicken wire which mon tied with red ribbon, began to oust gaudy baubles on Christmas trees. This year the about Christmas decorations is that they don't

have to last too long.

When the wreath has its green background in place, take some wide wire-edged ribbon and bind it loosely round and round the wreath, crinkling the edges as you go. Wire-edged rib-bon is fantastic stuff, because it stays where you style could never live up to that, but this may but it. When you have worked all the way round using holly, dark green box or ivy and adding the wreath, fix the end of the ribbon on to the ing shape to use in decorations, rounded, but beginning — a pin will do — and start filling in or ivy, to relieve the darkness. The seedpods of

work well in a wreath of this sort. So do the showers of small hips from a rose such as 'Kiftsgate'. Add plenty of glittery stuff.

Lay the ring in the centre of the table and arrange gilded pomegranates, if you have made them, in a ring against the inside edge of the wreath. Then you should put some tall candles in the middle, anchored either in their case holders or stuck with electricing to their own holders, or stuck with plasticine to a tin plate. It is a wise precaution to pick greenery before you want to use it or the Christmas table will be alive with woodlice and small spiders making determined assaults on the brandy

the stinking iris or gladwyn (Iris foetidissima)

Candles are your greatest allies at Christmas. That's not just because they look good. In the gentle, diffuse light they cast, nobody will notice that you have not dusted the bookshelves or fully removed the scars of last year's Christmas from the carpet underfoot.

Hologram paper place mats are going to be joining the candles on our Christmas table this year. A sheet of hologram wrapping paper costs about a pound and is enough for two reasonable place mats. Give each setting its own little beacon to set the holograms dancing. Night lights are invaluable as they are enclosed in their own aluminium holders. There is no molten wax to worry about and, because they are so squat, they do not wobble or fall about.

Set a night light on a beer mat covered with silver paper (or a disc of hologram paper if there is enough). Build a small wreath of bits and pieces around each light, using a combination of dark greenery and tinsel, with bunches of fake holly berries if you cannot get hold of the real thing. The birds have stripped ours already. I do not begrudge them. It is better than ruining their stomachs on supermarket bread.

If you prefer, mass tall candles on round tin trays or plates and use them either side of the wreath centrepiece. Disguise the base with sprigs of ivy tucked in around the bottom of the candles, rings of satsumas round the outside and old baubles tucked into any gaps. At some stage of the meal, probably with the Madeira and raisins, the candles will have burnt low enough to catch the investigate. If the Madeira is delicated to catch the investigate in the mean of the catch the investigate in the mean of the catch the investigate. to catch the ivy alight. If the Madeira is doing its job properly, this will not bother you. And the effect on the hologram paper will be mem-



It's not too late to send gardening presents

hristmas deadlines? Don't worry, just Ugive us a call, even the week before Christmas. If we've got it in stock, we will ship it ..." promises Graham Hopper of Garden Images, who produces a stylish small brochure of gifts for gardeners. Try his galvanised French flower vases, like tall thin buckets, leak resistant, rust resistant and available in three sizes (either 8in, 12in or 15in tall; prices £7.95 to £11.95), or his black steel hurricane lamp (9//in tall, 5//in deep and costs, £19.95). The Garden Images order line (01564 794035) is open from 9am to 9pm seven days a week.

More last-minute Christmas presents

... Aliwoods, who since 1910 have
specialised in growing carnations and pinks, can send one dozen mixed carnations with foliage for £9.95, 15 mixed carnations with foliage for £11.95. Flowers are despatched by firstclass mail from Monday to Thursday and should arrive overnight. Telephone order line 01273 844229.

was interested to read your article about windowboxes," wrote Maria Carmody of the PR company Parker Hobart, "and thought you might like to hear about my new client Marston & Langinger." Since M&L specialise in designing, building and furnishing the most sumptuous conservatories, the connection wasn't quite conservatories, the connection wasn't quite as clear to me as it evidently was to Ms Carmody. Nevertheless, I have had a happy time drooling over the pictures in the lavish brochure she enclosed. It's the details that are so riveting: the cast-iron roof braces, the slatted benches, the cast-iron heating grilles set into the terracotta paved floors, the rigid metal gutters, the finials and vent openers. The furniture they sell is no less classy - English willow made into sofas, chairs, ottomans and tables. The London showroom is at 192 Ebury Street, London SW1W 8UP (0171-823 6829); the workshops at George Edwards Road, Pakenham, Norfolk NR21 8NL.

More than 200 rhododendrons, including Withe rare species R oreodoxa, R beesianum and R phaeochrysum have been returned to China in a new conservation initiative pioneered by the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. This is the first time that the RBGE has returned live plants to their country of origin. The rhododendrons have gone to the Hua Xi Subalpine Botanical Garden in Sichuan province to provide the nucleus of a conservation collection of plants that are under threat in their wild habitats. The rhododendròns will be propagated in Sichuan and some of them can then be used to reinforce wild populations.

The project has been funded in part by the government's Darwin Initiative. The link is particularly appropriate as many of these plants were first brought to the RBGE by plant hunters at the turn of the century. The botanic garden is an important research centre for anyone interested in the flora of China. Taxonomists there are working on a monumental 25-volume flora of the country which should be finished by 2010.

The National Trust is to acquire the 675-acre, Grade I listed Capability Brown landscape park at Croome, near Worcester, from the Sun Alliance and London Assurance Company, which has owned a large part of the estate for the last 15 years. Brown's design for the park with its lakes and river remains almost as he planned it. The park buildings include a splendid temple greenhouse designed by Robert Adam in 1760 and features by

James Wyatt.
The National Trust estimates that the total cost of the restoration and preservation of Croome Park will be in the region of £8m. It has already received more than half that sum from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The restoration is likely to take 10 years.



You too can make imaginative wreaths like these at Wild at Heart in west London Photographs: Peter Macdiarmid

the spaces between the swathes of colour. Use walnuts sprayed silver, baubles, cherubs, stars, whatever takes your fancy. Nuts have to be fixed on with florist's wire. Bend the end of the wire

into a little right angle and stick this to the bottom of the nut with some glue.

A wreath such as this also makes a good table centre. Fill the wreath with greenery, as before,

The poinsettia is top of the pots

By Anna McKane

op of the pots this Christmas is the poinsettia. Sales of about 5 from the growers' point of view, million, almost all in the space of one month, will put it miles mer bedding and container plants. ahead of any challenger.

Potted flowering heathers are the tropics, can stand the heat even of an extended family get together.

have been made for Christmas. That hasn't stopped plant breedand peaches, which some think are smart and trendy, and traditionalists think are pointless.

the original plant, too, with stan- on mother poinsettia plants from dards appearing in the shops, as well as groups of miniaturised late spring.

Poinsettias are big business.

When the last of these are sold from the nurseries in June and not jolly enough, winter cherries July, rooted poinsettia cuttings and azaleas are not quite the right are bought in by the thousand. colours and the elegant cyclamen. Large numbers of the cuttings sadly, can't take the temperatures and finished plants are produced we like in our sitting-rooms. But in this country: poinsettia growing the poinsettia, which comes from is one area of the pot plant business that has not become dominated by the Netherlands.

The plants are grown on until With its flamboyant red bracts mid- to late November, with the and smart green leaves, it might temperatures being lowered gradually towards December to harden them off ready to be transported ers from producing creams, pinks to the shops. Then the whole crop is sold in less than six weeks. After Christmas, as we throw away our bits of holly and store our deco-There are other variations on rations, the growers are bringing which cuttings will be taken in the

Well over a hundred varieties

years, although buyers are unlikely to find named types when they reach the shops.

have been developed to help the professionals with speed of growth, shelf life, and their "breaking habit". This refers to the plant's flower-bearing side shoots when surrounding bracts which give the dramatic colour.

One characteristic that the breeders have done away with is the need for long nights. Until recently growers had to provide 14 hours of darkness during the autumn to encourage the plants to produce flower buds. This is why, we used to be told, amateurs should throw out their poinsettias soon after the holly, because they would never get them into flower

have been bred over the last few director of H Evans and Sons of Sidcup in Kent, explains that this is no longer true.

Mr Evans's firm produces As well as slightly different around 400,000 poinsettias under colours, many of the new varieties more than 10 acres of glass, and he says the varieties grown now can be persuaded into flower next year without elaborate arrangements for restricting light. Howability to produce plenty of strong ever, the problem for the amateur is size. In its native Mexico and in the main shoot is pinched out. The yellowish flowers are tiny; it is the cherrima grows to fit tall and is often found in hedgerows. The plants we buy have usually been treated with a growth retardant so they flower while smaller than they would be in the wild.

Next year the same plant may flower, if it is looked after and fed regularly, but it will have grown to three or four feet high. If you can accommodate the size, it might be worth cutting your Christmas poinsettias back when they have finished flowering and giving them a



the late summer.

are over. They should be brought is dry, standing the pot up to its top into the house and fed regularly in in water for a few minutes, then he late summer.

Avoid overwatering. Mr Evans

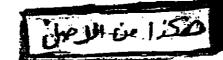
draining and returning it to its potholder. The plant's real enemy again. But John Evans, managing rest in the garden when the frosts advises waiting until the compost is waterlogging, and if it is watered

in its cache-pot there is a danger it will be left for several days standing in water.

All the poinsettias now in the shops and garden centres have been grown from this year's cuttings, even the standard ones which are selling for very fashionable prices of around £100. These have been fed lavishly to make them shoot upwards, then pinched out at about a metre high to produce a mophead of colour. The tiny ones, called tots in the trade, have been fed with a growth retardant and grouped in bowls for a pretty effect.

As growers experiment continuously with new strains, we can expect more unusual colours, moving through peaches towards

And breeders are also working on strains which will drape themselves in hanging baskets, so we can expect to see festoons of these soon in Christmas displays in restaurants and shopping malls.



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All I want for Christmas...

Will it be Pogs or perfume? Cafetière or cultivator? Three families confide their hopes and aspirations, disappointments and frustrations to Sally Williams. Photographs: Keith Dobney and Nicholas Turpin



The Snape family: Nigel, 36, farmer and landowner; Angie, 32; Hugo, 5; Toby, 3; Flora, 10 months. They live in the Alkham Valley, Kent

tio 😥

i and

I do all my shopping on Christmas Eve. I only ever buy presents from shops where they wrap them up, and I always make sure the receipt is with it. Angie normally tells me exactly what she wants, and I go and buy it. That works very well. Except one year I was detailed to go and buy a gold bracelet. For £700 all you got was a little strip. So I bought a silver one instead. It made much more of a splash. But that didn't go down at all well and was

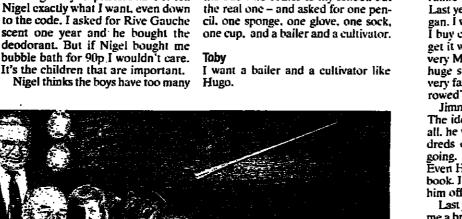
promptly swapped for the gold one. I don't think children need many toys. The boys usually get some toy farm machinery. They re expensive, around £22 each, but at least they don't break after 10 minutes or need batteries.

I don't know what I want this year. My parents are giving me wine glasses - I know that as I've already bought them. Last year Angie gave me some golf lessons which was a good present for a man.

Nigel is incredibly fussy. Last year I bought him golf lessons, but he only used four of them, and a very smart rubbish bin, which he just laughed at. I never get any surprises. I have to tell Nigel exactly what I want, even down scent one year and he bought the deodorant. But if Nigel bought me bubble bath for 90p I wouldn't care. It's the children that are important.

toys, but they have hardly any compared with other children. Last year Hugo asked Father Christmas for a rubber and a pencil and he would have been quite happy with that. I've bought Flora a china mug from Peter Jones. I'm taking full advantage of the fact that she's still too young to care.

I sent a letter to Father Christmas - not the one who comes to my school, but





The Hills: Nick, 59, journalist; Liz, 40, residential letting agent; Ashley 11; Megan 9; Geoff Richards, 69, and Joan 66, are Liz's parents. They all live near Ashford, Kent.

Before Lizzie gave me instructions I always got it wrong. I have had some success in buying her scarves, but only because they all come from Next, one of her favourite shops. Last year Lizzie gave me a watch but it never worked. Joan gave me a greenhouse heater which I use in my office and is brilliant. I'd like books and clothes, but what would make me really happy would be to have some Christmas tree lights that work.

I always buy Nick clothes. Nothing matches if he chooses for himself. I've already given him one present. It's a framed portrait photograph of me. The girls are easy to buy for. I spend much more on them than on Nick or my parents. This year I've asked Nick for boots, a cafetière and leather gloves. I never like to know if he's actually gone out and bought any of them. I still like some element of surprise.

Last year Granny and Grampa bought me and Megan a Walkman and some pyjamas. They always buy us the same thing Perhaps I'll get a washing machine this year.

to stop us fighting. Once, Megan was given a Game Boy. I really wanted one. So Mum had to buy me one, but she got the wrong one and had to buy another one. I'd like a big teddy bear and a Mr Frosty lolly maker, but Mum says that's for four-year-olds. So I'd like a Spirograph Studio instead.

Last year I got the Crocodile Dentist game. And this year I'd Deneray from school has got about 90.

Geoff bought me an idiot-proof camera last year, which was a surprise. Geoff is good on surprises. Last year I had a vacuum cleaner. I was thrilled with it - I like practical presents.

like a Pog Maker. I've got about 20 Pogs already, but Katie

Last year Lizzie gave me a cordless drill. I'm no good at DIY, but I did manage to put up a rack. The binoculars my wife gave me never worked very well. This year I'd like the latest Dick Francis.

The Taylors: Annie, 49 (centre); Mishkin, 27 (left), building crafts student; Milly, 25 (second right), environmental researcher; Henry, 22 student (right); Martha, 21 (second left), assistant for fashion buying agency. Annie's husband Jimmy died in 1991. They live in London.

Last year I bought Milly a stripy cardigan. I wasn't going to get it. Whenever I buy clothes for my children I always get it wrong, but my friend said it was very Milly. She was right, and it was a huge success. In fact, Martha who is very fashion conscious has since "bor-

Jimmy was an amazing present buyer. The idea of cost didn't interest him at all, he would spend hours buying hundreds of books. I keep the tradition going, but don't buy nearly as many. Even Henry, who hates reading, gets a book. I haven't given up trying to wean

Last year a great friend of mine made me a breadboard from a lovely piece of wood and carved my name and the year on it. It was the perfect present. Quite the nicest I've had for years, and yet it cost him nothing beyond his efforts. sents, especially from old people, This year I'd like a folding pruning saw for the garden.

Mum always claims she'd be happy with a kiss, so she's very easy to buy presents for, Mima and I always buy each other the Red Stone Press Diary, because we're rather sad like that and for the past couple of years we've bought one for Mishkin, too. I have no idea if he likes them.

Mum would never give us vouchers incredibly naff. I think it's naff too, but as that implies no thought. But all what the hell. clothes are bought with the knowledge that we will almost certainly go and change them. The stripy cardy, however,

really was very nice. We still have stockings. I'll get masses of make-up, which is obviously meant for Martha because I don't wear any make-up, or Mima will get four pairs of Christmas knickers and the rest of us won't get any.

Mum always gives Mima and I matching pyjamas. Martha used to get them too, but she has made it very clear that she's not interested in those sorts

of presents. This year, I'd like loads of books. Nothing makes me happier.

I usually buy the girls books, because I like being given books, but I buy them more highbrow ones than I would read. Martha doesn't like reading, so I nor-mally give her a record. Dad always bought masses of books and that's why after all.

I do it. People can always grow into books. Henry is very difficult. Unless you have lots of money it's impossible

to make him happy.

The first Red Stone Diary I was given.

Drawings by Writers, was great. Last year's wasn't quite so good. I've no idea what this year's is like. I'm sure I'll soon find out.

This year I'd like a big medical dictionary. I've been quite ill recently and so far I've been told I've got shingles, glandular fever and meningitis. I'd like to find out exactly what is wrong

Martha is very easy to buy for. She normally goes shopping with me and unlike the others, we always tell each other what our presents are anyway. I have been given some truly awful pre-Embroidered handkerchiefs and nylon socks - that kind of thing, but I'd never

say anything, we're all quite tactful.

Last year Mum gave me a Jigsaw jumper which I liked and a pair of Jigsaw jeans which I didn't like and

took back.

Other than things for my new flat, I'd like - but I'm absolutely not going to get - a massive television with Nican digital stereo. It costs about £1,000. Mum would think that was

If I had the cash to buy all of my family something to wear I would, but I don't. Last year I did all my shopping on Christmas Eve and spent far too much money on not very nice presents. I got Mima some really expensive, rather pointless, body lotion for £35. Last year Mum gave me a Jigsaw jumper. I knew I was getting a Jigsaw iumper, because I get one every year.I took it back. There was nothing wrong with it. I just didn't want another Jigsaw jumper.

A few years ago I would have gone with Mum to make sure she chose the right thing, but now it doesn't really matter. She can get me what she likes. This year I'd like a cream Jigsaw kneelength coat. But I won't get it. It costs £200. But if I got a Jigsaw jumper. I could exchange it and pay the difference. So, I hope I get a Jigsaw jumper

the thing about...

Leopard print

nearly fainted in Beauchamp Place the other night. One moment we were walking along, perfectly normally, and the next moment I glanced into the window of the Caroline Charles shop and the blood rushed to my head. There, in the plain display which belies great expanse. was the ultimate object of desire: stiletto-heeled ankle thing for a girl's stockings this

The thing about these gorgeous creations is that they

a very Nineties one. A pair of fair and Knightsbridge you drop-dead sexy shoes gets can even buy a sofa which many people's blood pump- yearns for the savannah. ing, and the wonderful release of being able to wear animal pelts again without fear of

paint-bombs is heady stuff. The streets are currently littered with animal skins: you can hardly move for acrylic zebras, viscose tigers, woolmix astrakhan, man-made dress in animal skins. Fur is it. boots with panels of leopard- mink and the ubiquitous leopskin - £195 worth. Just the ard print. Hennes does a lovely velveteen photoprinted jersey for £14.99. There isn't a chain store worth its salt that

The explosion of leopardskin accessories has put a new complexion on the fur debate. Despite everything despite hectoring, despite spoilt pop-stars making bonfires of coats; despite Naomi Campbell - we still want to

I think the reasons run deep. I have to admit to having owned two real fur coats in my life. One set of beaver lambs died for the pleasure of doesn't carry a line in death- my grandmother, who probcombine two objects of fan- free bucket bags. And in sev- ably wasn't, in the Fifties, tasy: a hoary old favourite and eral of the Emporia of May- thinking too hard about ani- and they brought a bit of they really think that people bitches as they head from



mink I bought in Oxfam for those coats. They were warm.

mal welfare. The other was a glamour to studenthood. These are some of the reafirebombs, but I really loved themselves on the new alternatives to fur. First, the antithey were gorgeous to touch fur lobby have got it wrong if for a bit, that they're rich

big cats. In a world of awk- even deeper than all that: big cats hold out the promise to be, and they would come fake cat-fur coat. Also, when women want to pretend, just

cats. What they want is to be

wardness and rule-following, something so primitive that many urban societies don't of sleekness, grace, playful- want to look it squarely in the ness and, well, the feline qual- face. We're still cave people ities. Ask most people what underneath. Women divide animal they would most like into two types on this. Some want to prove that their man up with some form of cat. And is brave enough and a good then again, they feel lovely, enough provider to even bring The next best thing to a sabre-toothed tiger home stroking a cat is stroking a for her. Or a at least a millloomed sabre-toothed tiger. a fiver. Please don't send me sons why women have flung all's said and done, they do And the rest of us? Well we represent a fantasy. Most just want to look as though we

particularly want to wear big thankless job to Lean Cuisine.

Serena Mackesy

And there's something

shopping

You think snowstorm paperweights are kitsch? Try one ringed in baby-pink marabou

By Monique Roffey

Atuck for a present to buy for that apocryphal person the thing, and hipper than the Mike Flowers Pops cover song of Oasis's "Wonderwall", is the naffest of naff mantlepiece icons - the snowstorm paperweight

They're selling like hot-cakes," says Stuart Glover, assistant manager in Harrods' Christmas decorations department. We sold 150 last week alone – kitsch is in."

But snowstorms have been around for years, so why the sudden fad? "They're a bit different these days," says Ashley Clayton, a shop assis-tant at Objects in York which sells a wide selection of snowstorms. "The ones we sell are more glitzy and kitsch. They've got gold glit-ter and sparkles instead of snow and have camp figures inside like cherubs, moons and dragons." Some are even ringed in baby pink fake marabou. "They used to be thought of as tacky souvenirs from Scarborough, but now they've been revamped – a specific item. "We had a man in the other day looking for a unicorn, but we didn't have 'though they still retain that one.' element of naffness that people liked in them in the first

Allen Strauss, who runs Christmas Angels, an all-yearround Christmas shop, also in York, agrees. "We've also experienced a fad for them recently. They seem to be selling all year round, not just at Christmas. They represent a bit of nostalgia - they're a childhood thing." His snowstorms are also of a high quality. "Ours are made from glass with ceramic or resin bases. They've gone up in quality and come down in

musical snowstorm of a nativ-Karl Cook sells exquisitely made kitsch, camp and beautiful snowstorms filled with pure mineral water. "Oh, they're very much this year's thing," he says. "We've sold a huge amount. It's funny, because we were surprised at first at how popular they were,

but then we even saw the

classic plastic, tacky versions being snapped up elsewhere." So which snowstorms are the most sought after? "The moving ones and the musical ones were the first to go," says Stuart Glover at Harrods. "It's the novelty factor that people want. We also have

one of a teddy holding a Har-



most popular, then musical ones

rods globe, which tourists

"At the moment, our traditional, Christmas ones are selling best," says Allen Strauss. He warns that the moving versions can be troublesome. "We used to get moving ones which had a battery and would blow the snow around inside the glass dome all the time, but they used to break or get leak-While everyone, from age." While everyone, from kids to grannies, is buying them, Strauss sees the occasional snowstorm fanatic who collects them and is looking for

And they can't be made to order - in fact, they aren't made in this country at all any more. Karl Cook imports his quality models from Germany, but most snowstorms available here are made in Taiwan or China. "We'll import five or six hundred of a certain style from the Far East," says Stuart Glover. "The majority of ours are Prices vary according to size and complexity, anything from £8 upwards to £45.

"Tve been collecting them for years," said one collector price." Having said that, his at Harrods decorations most lavish is a gold plated department. "I'm glad to hear they're fashionable now, joked about my collection. I knew one day people would see them as I do - rather

Christmas Angels, 47

Low Petergate, York (01904 642454). Harrods Christmas department, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-730 1234). Objects, 21 Castlegate Coppergate Centre, York (01904 647373). For stockists of Karl Cook's snowstorms, call Environment on 01977 685101

Keepers of the flame

For 155 years Price's has made candles in its Victorian factory on the Thames. But now its future is in doubt. By Monique Roffey

stand near the walls like dark wells. In one corner long tubes of creamy white wax get chopped into and then boxed by expert hands. Slabs of coloured wax, like great candy ingots, are piled up in columns. Christmas is a busy time of year at Price's Patent Candle Company, a Victorian factory on the banks of the Thames at Battersea.

"It certainly is," says Berry D'Arcy, the company's marketing assistant. "We sold £8,000 worth of candles last Saturday alone." But while the last decade has seen a boom in the candle industry (since 1987 its worth has tripled to an estimated £75m), at one time the industry was almost completely extinguished. "Around about the turn of the century, when gas was being used and electricity had just been invented, candles went out of use completely," she explains. "Until then, they'd been the only source of artificial light and had been used for centuries - the rich using beeswax, and the poor using the smellier and smokier tallow candles made from animal fat. It's only recently that candles have enjoyed a comeback and have been thought of as gifts."
Price's Patent Candle Com-

pany was established in 1830 byBenjamin Lancaster and William Wilson. Both were commodity brokers dealing in Russian tallow, who managed to acquire the new patent for making candles with palm oil. Going into "trade" at the time was rather looked down upon, so to hide their involvement with the business, they gave the company Benjamin Lancaster's maiden aunt. They took over the site in Battersea and a 1,000-acre coconut plantation in Ceylon. When the factory first opened, barges carrying the palm oil from Ceylon would pull up at low tide right outside the factory walls, and unload their cargo. In the 1920s the barges were swapped for road tankers, and the palm oil

Today the factory, a warren of rooms housing machinery and equipment, has changed very little since it was built. While some new equipment has been brought in, many of the original machines still exist. The techniques used include "extrusion", where hot

wax is forced through a circular tube then chopped off (household candles are made like this). wax are compressed from pow-dered wax (used for nightlights). and "moulding", where wax is poured into moulds to set (dinner candles are made like this).

One method of candle making practised at Price's dates back to Roman times. This is the handmaking of long church tapers. It is done by continuously dippinglong wicks into hot wax, or pouring hot wax down the length of them so that the wicks thicken gradually into long slen-der tapers. The process is slow and laborious. The four-foot long tapers hanging from a large wrought-iron carousel during my visit were being hand-dipped two or three times an hour, and would take weeks to complete. They are made on a commission-only basis for church clients. The company also makes enormous, shoulder height, tree-trunk thick candles for St Paul's cathedral which cost £1,000 and take a year to make.

Attached to the factory is a large gift shop selling candles and candlesticks, glass jars, night lights, garden flares and other candle paraphernalia. Church candles are currently a big seller. These were never considered fashionable for home use until recently," says Berry D'Arcy. "Now everybody wants them." Scented and aromatherapy candies are also a recent musthave. "Scented candles were big in the Sixties," she says. "Now they've come round again, people can't seem to get enough of them." Also on sale are boxes of factory soiled seconds, easily good enough to use and almost

Sadly, however, the factory will not be on the site for much longer. Charming it may be; efficient and profitable it isn't. "The machinery is too old and the drains keep getting blocked; we can no longer produce the amount of candles needed to supply demand, both here and overseas," says Richard Simpson, the company director. Over the past two years they have been working on plans to move the factory out to a cheaper site outside the public to come and see.

Wandsworth borough council, dred new jobs to the area." however, has just turned down



Roman candles: at Price's church tapers are still dipped by hand

this plan. They were unhappy with it mainly because Price's also proposed a huge retail warehouse selling furniture, carpets and kitchen appliances on the old factory site. They think we will be taking business away from other local retailers," says Richard Simpson. "But we'd done a professional study to see if this would be the case and London, yet still keep a smaller found that the effects of our out"heritage" type factory making candles which would be open for minimal. If anything, we would have brought more than a hun-

decision, but, says Mr Simpson, "That takes a lot of time and money, neither of which we're terribly endowed with. It's all very

"So this may be the last Christmas at the candle factory," says Berry D'Arcy, "It's very sad for Price's and for Wandsworth because we've been here for so long and we're part of the community. But the harsh reality is that the building is old and the machinery is antiquated - we need today's technology."

All the more reason, perhaps, Price's may appeal against the to rush along to Price's before it

ressure

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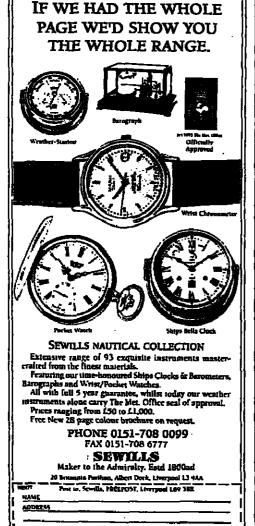
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Heavy col

shuts. The company continues to make very fine candles, scented or unscented, fancy or plain. And if the late 20th century has finally tolled the death knell of the Battersea factory, it has at least shown that not even electricity can replace the charm of a plain oldfashioned candle.

> Price's Patent Candle Company. 110 York Rd, London SW11 3RU (0171-801 2030). The "candle extravaganza" sale continues until the end of December in the shop, open Mon-Sat 9.30am-6pm, Sun

collecting • antiques, galleries







AUCTIONS

Why is Auberon Waugh the most unpopular person in Charing Cross Road? Find out at Sotheby's on

owned by his late father Evelyn, with this advice: "The purchaser has only to stick them in an appropriate book and - bingo! - its value dou-bles." Bibliophiles with a streak of dishonesty are invited to submit to this page titles of published books (other than Evelyn Waugh's own) which, with the surreptitious addition of a Waugh bookplate, might create a plausible faise trail for literary historians. A bottle of bubbly for the most ingenious suggestion. Entries by Saturday,

Izard wheeze by Auberon Waugh: he has donated

auction 23 paper bookplates

to a Sotheby's charity

Estimated £100-£150, the bookplates are among 76 lots in Sotheby's English literature (10.30am), being sold on behalf of the Royal Society of Literature's appeal for funds for the upkeep of an 18th century cottage in the Mendip Hills, left to it by the Russianborn novelist E M Almedingen, as a writers' retreat. The cottage would, presumably, be equally serviceable as a

December 30.

retreat from irate booksellers. Other gems among the charity lots: Evelyn Waugh's telescopic ear trumpet, also donated by his son Auberon, which Evelyn ostentatiously closed during a speech by Maicolm Muggeridge at a Foyles's literary lunch: est £400-£600. Roy Jenkins, biographer of Asquith, has donated one of years, printed ephemera has the prime minister's walking risen in value. Grown-ups

sticks (£80-£100). The publishers Chatto and Windus intent on creating a paper picture of the Victorian age buy have rid themselves of a fine, grumpy letter by Joseph Conrad, complaining: "No doubt many writers can shake 50,000 words out of their sleeve in their spare time, but I have not that facility" (£400-£600). And what estimate has been put on Leslie Thomas's donation of his own 500-page revised typescript of his novel Arrivals and Departures? £100-£150. Ahem.

The greatest joy of Christmas past was that children never realised how boring it really was. Take the Victorian scrap albums in Bonhams' Chelsea sale of toys, dolls and teddies, Wednesday (12 noon): they are filled with paper pushouts of birds, animals, soldiers and circuses. Today's parents and history sale, Monday and teachers would condemn such things as mindless, along with trading cards and Pogs. With what resignation did

the Edwardian brother and sister George and Doris Strathon accept a stack of pop-outs and a blank, 200page, leather-bound album gilt-embossed with their names, the date 1902 and the inscription "from Uncle Sparks"? Now filled, it is estimated £400-£600. There are still some coloured sheets of pop-outs concealed in the album box. Pop and paste, pop and paste; did the wretched siblings eventually

succumb to exhaustion? In the past three or four

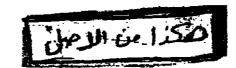
such albums for their idealised vision of the times: happy children with rosebud lips, skating on ice with hands in fur muffs; military field gun crews in swanky, authentic uniforms. Never mind if the elephants were misshapen. In those days, not everybody lived near a zoo.

Christmas shoppers with a Utew hundred pounds left should visit Christie's South Kensington's collection of 30 colourful, romantic and original Aubusson textile designs of the late 19th and early 20th century, in the British watercolour, drawing and print sale on Wednesday (10.30am). A design for a firescreen, showing three maidens in sylvan setting is est £300-£500; a design of mixed flowers for a chair back £100-£200. Do not get carried away, however: the 30 designs in last November's sale fetched 50-75 per cent above estimate.

There are also four robust coloured prints in the style of Rowlandson, two by Alken, two by Gillray, neither of whom had any need to copy someone else's style. One of the Alkens, showing a leg amputation, was no doubt hilarious in its day: est £200-£400 the lot.

> A full listing of auctions countrywide appears on pages 26-27.

> > John Windsor



six of the best christmas crackers



Luxury: Smythson, £100 for six Hot orange wrappers stencilled with golden quilts, which come in a strong black and gold box that you can keep afterwards. The big bang takes real elbow work but it's worth it for the contents: Smythson's distinctive little leather bound notebooks, key fohs, luggage tags and tiny diaries. Smythson, 44 New Bond Street, London W1Y ODE (0171-

629 8558 for mail order).

DEconomy: Woolweiths, £7.99 for six These are easily the best value of the lot. The "Improved Contents" label did not bode well, but the presents are good and surprisingly substantial for the price: perfumed scaps, lipstick holders, earrings and nail clippers. The mottoes are along Hivial Pursuit lines with questions rather than the usual tired old jokes. Call 0171-262 1222 for your nearest branch.

DIY: Liberty, £5.95 for four Make-your-own crackers are a great idea for wrapping small presents in. The kit comes with clear instructions, hats, bangers and jokes (What flies and wobbles? - a jellicopter). The only things you need to supply are the presents and cardboard tubes - start saving your loo-rolls now. Perfect for all ageing Blue Peter fans. Call 0171-734 1234 for your nearest branch.

Wacky: Party Bomb, Liberty £21.95
Our bomb went off with a rather
dull pop but the flames made up for it and the force of the explosion toppled the canister on to the floor. The presents are all wrapped in tissue paper and included bandanas, whoopee cushions, a silk scarf, gliders and water bombs. No mottoes or hats but lots of streamers, glitter and party blowers to keep everyone happy. Liberty: 0171-734 1234.

Stylish: Conran Shop, £18.50 for six Lovely wrappers in gold and blue, each one slightly different, and they give a satisfying snap when pulled. Some felt the contents a little too down to earth – a mini whisk, nifty travel toothbrush. and a tiny padlock and key - but in general a far cry from the usual plastic bits and bobs which end up lodged in the dog's throat. The Contan Shop, 81 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-589 7401).

Indulgent: Liberty liqueur crackers, £29.95 for six Beautiful crackers with delicious bottles of liqueur: just what you don't need at the end of an enormous meal, but what the hell? The bottles look as good as their contents taste. Guaranteed to please your guests, just as long as they don't start fighting over who gets the unbelievably delicious Eau de Noix. Liberty: 0171-734 1234.

'Honest' shoppers steal, so do children. At Christmas the pressure is on for store detectives

By Karen Falconer

lights, when, aware of someone on my tail, I turned to find a modern-day Artful Dodger, his hand poised over my open-top bag. His two accomplices were

stalking my friends. He laughed and moved off as our eves met: he'd almost been caught in the act. I was not so soft a target as they presumed. I had, after all, spent that morning discussing the rise in shop crime at Christmas with the experts - and had them to thank for hiding my purse at the bottom of my bag.

Unfortunately, there is nothing exceptional about this experience. Christmas is notorious as the best time to steal from shops

"There's a dramatic increase in fore the problems increase." theft at Christmas, Stores are

happened just around the busier, there are more temporary have an image of a typical thief in sents from the age of eight a hefty profit, as they think noth-sider themselves criminals. Sudcorner from Oliver, the West workers who are less well trained End musical. I was walking in how to spot thieves, the shops They might be working in groups down Regent Street under are fuller and staff more tied up," or alone; be young, old or middleexplained Phil Edwards, seconded from Dixons to the Home Office as business adviser to the Crime Prevention Unit.

For, as the ranks of genuine shoppers swell, so do those of the shopping underworld, many of them perfecting their light-fin-gered lifts long before the average shopper might expect.
Thieves take the old phrase 'shopping early for Christmas' very seriously," says Bob Goslin, group security controller at W H Smith and a former police officer. "They start at the end of Octoberso they can sell goods on for Christmas. The increase is significant in retail and other types of crime. There's more opportunity to pass on goods and there-

But retailers and police do not

mind: it really can be anyone. upwards," says Mr Goslin. "And or scruffy, as another security chief, Stuart Campbell of Selfridges, is keen to point out. "It's across the whole spectrum. We even have experience of a 'family' with a child in a pushchair. The child isn't stealing, but is a method of providing cover. The adult puts something in a bag on the pushchair and transfers it to the pillow under the child."

The idea of children being used to steal their own Christmas presents may seem abhorrent, but Fagins, it would seem, are as commonplace today as they were in Dickensian times. As laws on juvenile crime make it impossible to prosecute children under 12, so unscrupulous or impoverished parents can take advantage. "Sure, kids steal their own Christmas pre-

Christmas is an open invitation to people to steal, as stores are stocked high with luxurious looking goodies, temptingly displayed. While this works effectively in stimulating our spending buds, it rubs in the fact not everyone can afford what they'd like. That's how professional thieves can drum up such a roaring trade each year. "Professionals steal because

other people want to buy Christmas presents cheaper," added Mr Goslin. "They sell them on and even steal to order. What happens is someone in the pub will say 'Can you get me a radio or a high value pen? The thief will bring it in the next night." Car boot sales are another popular outlet for the pros.

Professional thieves can make shoppers who would never con- arrest and prosecute if we can

some of the younger ones are 20 or 30 items. Sometimes, they their arms ache under the weight clearly used by their parents go to the trouble of dressing up as of carrier bags, they snap, because they can't be prosecuted." staff members. Overcoats are "It may be frustration." stuffed with goods, empty shopping bags crammed with items. bags lined with tinfoil to stop electronic tagging systems from activating. In one up-market shop, the shop assistant turned his back to discover a whole table of silk/cashmere scarves wiped clean

> pick-up. Electrical goods and clothes are popular items for the light fingered. But, according to research released this week by the Home consider the consequences. Office, not quite as desirable as food, alcohol and tohacco.

away: they turned up later in a

black bin liner out the back, dis-

shop-theft specialists. Yuletide brings out another breed; normal

ing of walking out of a shop with denly, as the lights twinkle and

order to pay," says Mr Campbell. personal view is that opportunist to ensure that we have sufficient staff to cater for that."

Others might do it for the kick.

Whatever their motivation, guised as rubbish for an evening naughty novices, unlike their professional counterparts, want small, easily concealable goods such as accessories, leather goods and gloves. And they often don't "There's a misconception that unless they leave the store, they But, they are not all taken by can't be arrested and prosecuted," says Mr Campbell. "That's totally wrong. We will

show sufficient evidence."

And, with a growing number of CCTV cameras, exit bleepers and uniformed and plain-clothed "It may be frustration in security guards, getting away with attracting a shop assistant in a casual theft may not be as easy as it looks. Or at least that's the Some people may walk out of message both stores and police the shop, but some will steal. My are trying to get across with measures such as opening special crime rises in this season so we try mobile police units in shopping centres or main high streets and organising phone-rounds when a notorious thief is spotted.

Whatever the measures, crime costs stores £2.7bn each year. including £580m on security devices, according to the British Retail Consortium. In consumer terms, that's £120 extra on the

family shopping bill each year.
At the end of the day, the honest consumer loses all ways round: handbags, purses, and increased prices of goods. It's almost enough to send you down to the car boot sale.



bazaar

Vac-Man competition The answer Stretch Armstrong's dog is called "Fetch Armstrong". The 10 winners are: Stephen Lawton, Duncan J. Corns, Mr Sims, James Bieda, J R Forsyth, Paul Westwood, Robin Long, Mrs J

Overheard at Harrods grotto

Alia Hassan, aged li: "Santa gave me a book but didn't read it with me. He asked me what I want for Christmas, I said a Pocahontas Village set and a puppy. I have never had one. I only have a bird and I can't play with it"

Rebetca Thomas, aged 5: "I always come here. I asked for magic pens that change colour and some mouse



colours of lime green, peach, yellow and clear - but they have a wonderfully squidgy quality that makes them great fun to play with, stacking them in towers and so on. Small children would love them, too. A great present for friends who think they have seen everything. From Stephen Bretland, Ground Floor, 30 Underwood St. London N1 7JX (Tel/fax: 0171-251 5343) Add p&p to price.

Mad thing

Good thing

Rubber egg cups, £16 for four

These chunky

Not that they

wouldn't look

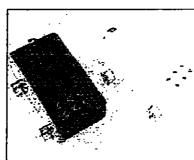
groovy or your

breakfast table - in

robber rings are wasted as egg cups.

Salt Epepper pots on wheels, £29.95 the

If you are already feeling too weighed down by the excesses of the season to find enough energy to pass the salt and pepper,



you'd better put these on your Christmas list. Park them in the middle of the table and then give them a quick nudge in the direction of whoever needs to season their turkey or sprouts. But beware: things could quickly degenerate as they are bound to spark fond memories of Scalextric sets. From The Conran Shop, 81 Pulham Road, London SW3 6RD. Call 0171-589 7401 for mail-order details

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Bestsellers

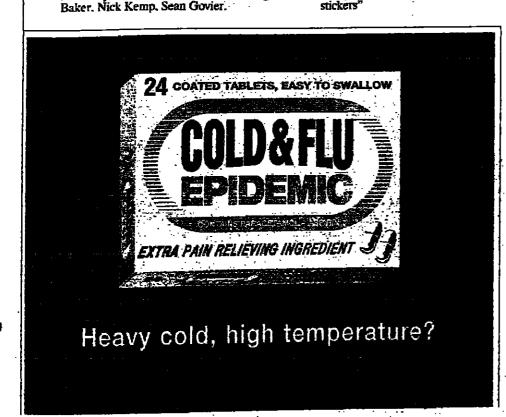
Top 10 items sold at Spymaster

These may not be the most festive presents, but would-be Bonds will love you for ever. The big buy at the moment at Spymaster is bullet- and stab-proof vests, bought by policeman's wives and Bosnia-bound reporters. The tabloid hack in your life might appreciate a transmitting clock radio, which has a built-in camera for recording politicians' indiscretions. And some lucky person is going to get a breathing observation bubble - a sort of underwater scooter - in their stocking. Two were sold just last week.

1 Christmas spy krt	£19
2 Bullet-proof vests	
3 Stopatak personal protection atarm	
4 Compass watch	
5 Hight vision goggles	£1,75
6 Briefcase satellite communications system.	214.10
7 Breathing observation bubble	£25,000 for tw
8 Pockel thermal blanket	2
9 Transmitting clock radio and receiver	
10 Rucksack ladder	£42

Spyrnaster is at 3 Portman Square, London W1

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arts reviews

CLASSICAL

London Sinfonietta / Stenz

Robert Maycock reels before the reality of 'Life without Christmas', Georgian style

or victims of consumer fatigue at the year's retailing climax, the prospect of Life without Christmas may excite an Advent-like sense of anticipation. Those who know Giya Kancheli's music, however, will realise that the title holds not a snowflake of irony. During two hours at the Queen Elizabeth Hall last Sunday, the total duration of fast action amounted to about 15 seconds - cruel, painful seconds, every one.

Life is a cycle of four pieces, each named as a prayer for a different time of day, from morning to night. A boy's voice intones texts from time to time but, apart from the more extensively sung third piece, all four works are mostly laid out for strings with various wind and percussion. They date from the early Nineties, just before Kancheli - who was well-established in his native Georgia during the Soviet era - left the mess of post-independence life for the West.

Over the last decade, Kancheli has acquired a cult following, as Henryk Gorecki had before the popular success of his Third Symphony. In both cases, it rests on lengthy scores with an over-whelming atmosphere of contemplative gloom. There the resemblance ends. Kancheli, unlike Gorecki - or, for that matter, John Tavener and Arvo Pärt - is not a lapsed modernist whose yearning for the past forced a way through. He has always headed in this direction, having grown against a background of the early 20th-century ry Russians, Shostakovich and Prokofiev.

The music, for all its consonant, rooted nature and the uncovered directness of its emotion, is quite contemporary in feeling. Two immediate qualities stand out. The prevailing slow, spare writing is unsettled: one thing gives way to another, rather than resolving itself before it moves on. Then, against this restless but ultimately static background, the sudden short eruptions of noise and fury are right out of proportion. They, too, do not resolve. Sometimes they fizzle out, like a cry of despair that loses heart because nobody is listening. Sometimes they stop as abruptly as they started.

Two pieces, "Evening Prayers" and "Night Prayers", were here receiving their first UK performances. Of these, the first, with a chorus of altos singing throughout, is the most melodic and continuous of the whole cycle, and the most straightforwardly thematic as it builds to a climax of lyrical lamentation. "Night Prayers", expanded from a Kronos Quartet commission, is the most quietly intense for nearly all its duration, until it explodes in the longest and most harrowing of plaints. John Harle, the solo saxophonist, powered into the same dynamic extremes he had reached in Birtwistle's Panic at the Last Night of the Proms - an aesthetically opposite side of the same expressive coin.

Even so, "Daytime Prayers" delivered the year's single most frightening musical moment as the clarinettist, Michael Collins, had his screaming high entry reinforced by piccolo and cymbals. This is music whose stark immediacy requires the full, meditative lengths that follow, once its impact is accepted. fonietta players, conducted by Markus Stenz, took it stiffly to start, but warmed to the arrival of the London Sinfonietta Voices in "Evening Prayers". Matthew Brown, a small boy with big shoes, undermined the magic of his on-stage arrival with a noisy plod to the front, and then sang with chilling precision.

THEATRE Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, RNT

It boasts the perfect pairing of Simon Russell Beale and Adrian Scarborough, but does the revival of Tom Stoppard's first hit deserve the hype? By Paul Taylor



Adrian Scarborough, Alan Howard and Simon Russell Beale: lending drama to a three-hour comedy sketch

regnant. pregnant replies, mystic allusions, mistaken identities, arguing his father is his mother, that sort of thing, intimations of suicide... paranoia, myopia; daydreaming, hallucinations; stabbing his elders, abusing his parents, insulting his lover, and appearing hapless in public - knock-kneed, droop-stockinged and sighing like a lovesick schoolboy, which at his age is coming on a bit strong." It might not get you an A-level, but for its rapidity and comprehensive refusal to be colluded by sentiment, the above report on *Hamlet* certainly has its charms. What gives it added sayour in Matthew Francis' Lyttelton revival of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead is that it is delivered by Simon Russell Beale.

For some years now, this gifted actor has had a date with destiny to take on the role of Hamlet – a number of the performances he has given (Konstantin in *The Seagull*, Oswald in *Ghosus* etc.) offering tasty intimations of the Black Prince he would one day become. Indeed, he was actually scheduled to assume the part for Sam Mendes earlier this year, an enterprise delayed (one guess is) by the Ralph Fiennes Hamlet. Impersonating Guildenstern now in a Stoppard play that takes place on the sidelines of *Hamlet* and gives centre-stage status to two of its minor characters brings Russell Beale closer to the fated

role only in the most ironic and tantalising of ways. Time is kinder to some jokes than others. One gag that seems to have really come into its own, earning a loud laugh on press night, was Rosencrantz's line: "You can't treat royalty like people with normal perverted desires." It's sad to say that reasonably loud laughter greeted much of the rest of the play too. For this reviewer, though, Stoppard's tricksy presentation of the epony-

mous duo as a pair of bewildered Beckettian innocents moving to their doom on the conveyor belt of Shakespeare's plot feels more than ever like a good idea for a sketch laboriously extended to a three-act drama.

This is no fault of the acting. As the Player, Alan Howard turns in a diverting portrait of a raddled old pro, his smug discoursings on the tricks of the trade, such as stage-death, further rattling the central pair with their metaphysical implications. Both dumpy and fair-haired, with modern college scarves gracing their Elizabethan costumes, Russell Beale and Adrian Scarborough make an endearing double-act, the former more speculative and liable to get worked up into peeved indignation at the stolidity of the other. "Pragmatism?" - Russell Beale lets out a wonderfully contentious snort when his theorisings about direction of wind relative to position of sun meet with the commonsense

suggestion "Why don't you go and have a look?". The production fields some good ideas. Toward the end, the sides of Lez Brotherston's set close in so that Rosencrantz's and Guildenstern's relegation to off-stage character status looks, aptly, like a treacherous moving of the goal posts in some game over which they have no control. I was less sure about the value of showing up the shipboard scene recessed behind the final tableau from Hamlet or of spelling out a fate that has been all too exhaustively forecast for us by having two bundles dropped down like hanged bodies. "You don't have to flog it to death," snaps Guildenstern at one point. There are times when you wish that both play and production had followed this advice.

In rep at the Lyttelton Theatre, London, SE1 (0171-928 2252)



The big issue: if Adam Ant could make it, why couldn't Joanna Lumley?

The Big Issue Foundation," says the lady at the door of the Photographers' Gallery, "provides so much more than all the things you already know about."

"Like what?" I ask. Well," she says, "acupuncture for the homeless, for a

At this, the elderly homeless man listening into our conversation - who has already proposed marriage to the woman from the Evening Standard, sung an Adam Ant song to Adam Ant and told us three ancedotes about Frank Sinatra bursts into uncontrollable fits of laughter.

"Acupuncture?" screams. "Not only are we sleeping in boxes, but now you want to stick needles into our necks?"

"Yes," says the lady, with a brittle expression. "Acupuncture. Some people like it. Right Let's go inside and get some wine.

"Okay," I say. "Okay," says the homeless

"Ah. Right. Have you a ticket?" says the lady to the bomeless man, kindly but

"No, no," he replies, wearily. "I was just joking. Don't worry yourself. Goodbyeee!" And he wanders off into the freezing fog, and vanishes from view.

One can almost be reminded, if one is cruel enough, of the old days when black performers were allowed to entertain at the clubs, but couldn't sit in the audience. Nowadays, homeless people can be celebrity fund-raised, but they can't naturally - attend the They are standing right next to us in spirit, needless to say, we are all sympathising with their plight tonight, here inside the gallery, at the Big Issue fund-raiser, as we chat in an erudite fashion to the celebrity photographers who have donated 10 per cent of the proceeds of their sales to the poor people outside in the freezing fog. And the chat is about nothing, if it is not about the plight of the homeless. Nobody is heard to be chatting about anything less

consequential. "This is real," says Adam Ant. "It's reality. Look at

that photo. We dutifully - no, enthusiastically - examine the photo of a sunken man with a tale to tell in his eyes. It's a Helmut Newton, I think, or maybe one of the Annie Liebowitz Bosnia photos. Hard to tell whether he's a Bosnian old man or a London old man.

"That." says Adam Ant, "is reality. Look at his face. He's seen some things." "And what are you doing at

the moment?" says the woman from the Evening Standard. "What are your plans?"
"Well, now's not the appro-

priate time to talk about it."
says Adam, "but I've got glandular fever. We all came down with it, the bass player, the drummer, when we were recently touring America. And there's another album in the pipeline."

Yes, the homeless are everywhere in spirit: in the canape's, the wine, in the photographs, in the personal sage from Faith Brown written up in cardboard on the wall ("Children of the world, let's love each other..." or something). And, even though special guests. The Beverly Sisters haven't turned up, I have no doubt that the homeless people are with them in spirit also. And they're probably in spirit with Joanna Lumley too, wherever she may be.

"Where's Joanna Lumicy?" asks one of the many press photographers. "The press release says she's coming." "No, no," contends one of the organisers. "The press release says she's invited, and she's expected, but not that she's actually coming." "Aah," says the photographer, darkly.

And outside, when the elegant crowd spills out on to the pavement - to chat eruditely about things, and smoke cigarettes - the Big Issue sellers descend in force, and we all

"How are you doing?" one gallery-goer says to the young homeless man slumped on the floor.

"Pretty bad," says the homeless man.

"Oh I know," says the nonhomeless. "Cold. Wouldn't be out there myself... don't envy your job at all. Not job of course.. "I haven't got a job," says

the homeless man. "I had one, but I got sacked. I worked in a lighter factory..." "I realise you haven't got a job," says the non-homeless.

"It was just a figure of speech. Sorry. I didn't mean it." 'Come and sit down here with me," says the homeless man. "Come on. Have a seat.

Come on." But - after a moment's thought - the non-homeless

That finer (b.)

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man politely declines.



MR WORLDLY-WISE

choreographer Twyla Tharp, created on star dancers Mukhamedov, Kumakawa, Bussell and

"There is little for which to be truly grateful"

despite some "magical and serene" choreography, said Sophie Constanti. Others

were either ecstatic or fundus. "Bodies sparking

were entire testate or funds. "Bodies sparing flercely and edgily off each other... configurations so exquisite they still the heart," saluted the Guardian. "Makes the Royal Ballet look terrific," sang the Times. "No choreographer has so diminished the company," scoffed the Evening Standard. "Littought it sentimental.

disjunct, uncertain in manner, complained the

Financial Times. "Swirling with verye, thrills,

exciting moves," cheered the Dally Telegraph.

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A full-length ballet by America's great

the Royal Ballet.

THE STONE ROSES

After a five-year-absence life Mancuman band is back (minus flares) with a new drummer and a second album, styly entitled The Second Country.

Ryan Gibbey was incandescent. London has not witnessed such a shameless ritisplay of aural flatulence since Morris Carrullo was in tolen, making the same claims to possess miraculous. powers. (He's got nothing whatsover to do with music either.)" "How could a group whose lead vocalist can barely hold a note have got so far?" worders of studio belonging. Brown can carry it off. On stage, he just sounds like a bad karaolog singer. "They need a charlena transfusion," concluded the Evening Standard, NME begged to differ. "Perfloosly close to being the most vital, acceptable park to the concluded the Evening Standard, NME begged to differ. "Perfloosly close to being the most vital, acceptable park begged to the standard on the allower."

Further dates in Whitley Bay, Aberdeen, Glasgow Manufester, Sheffeld and London,

essential rock band on the planet.

George "Mad Max" Miller produces a Chris-Noonan film (animationles by Jun The Mappiers flemson) about a talking paget saved from this Adam Mars-Jones declared it "a perfect.

Anan Mars-tones decignon is a persent.
Christmas film, fingly and almost too buching.
"As if some Australian with more time a passing interest in Bunuel has been engaged to make a Disage Yuletide attraction," enused his contain. "Should have whole studies chucking," decided time fur. "You're delighted by the sheer surprise of inting yourself so delighted. Easily does that parties are surprise of inting yourself so delighted. Easily does that parties are surprise of the parties." delighted: Larely does that has burnes distinct, exclaimed the Eventus Southern State (1981) has been done to be witness and southern hands the witness and southern and the southern southern and the southern so toxic; not here," praise never again feel the say warned the Financial, it

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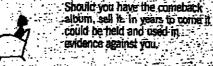
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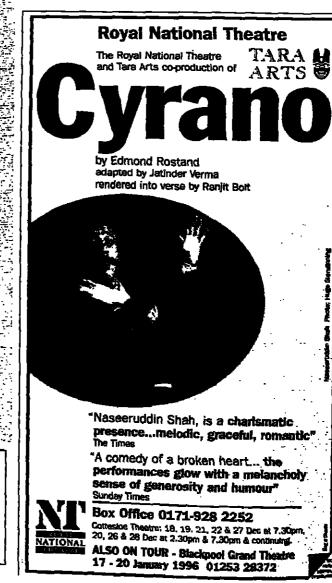


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The play's the thing, the pay's the problem

Actors lucky enough to find work in the theatre are paid so poorly as to make them speechless with embarrassment. A few are paid what they're worth: the rest must grin and bear it. By Georgina Brown



Maggie Smith is 'a ficence to print money', according to one producer, who believes she is receiving around 10 per



Dame Judi Dench is indisputably worth more to the National than the annual basic £41,000, but they make sure she can fit in more lucrative work such as playing M in 'Goldeneye'



in 'Break of Day', Nigel Perry plays an actor who has to



For the stars, television drama can be extremely financially rewarding. Kevin Whateley is one of the highest paid; he



Other are less lucky, though still better off than actors in the as Charlie, squealed at his derisory £80,000 per series



best thing is acting in commercials. One actress says: "If you're a girl-next-door type, you'll do better in telly"

Robert: How can I tour for nine. months for no money with a tiny. theatre company no one will watch? And yet, last night, I opened the door on a whole world... I didn't. go to university like Tess, sometimes get to learn on the job. I could if I did the part - but it's not responsible. Being an actor isn't respon-sible. It might be if it were valued.

which Robert, a fortysomefamiliar thespian dilemma. Should he take the part of Vershinin in a touring production of Three Sisters, or should he "do a telly", in this case a thin role in a tatty hospital drama series? At one level, it's a self-regarding and real life, Nigel Terry, the actor playing Robert, is playing Vershinin in Out of Joint's parallel touring production of Three Sisters. What's more, the discussion would have been sharper if the-telly job had been well written - good television drama is no longer a rarity - and was therefore a tougher choice. Nevertheless, the scene makes torian are the terms of the contract

several valid points, among them which allow employers to give turning down the opportunity to that stage actors are fabulously badly paid and open to exploitation because they are in the business for from behaving similarly. something other than money. Precisely how little actors earn

from theatre work is rarely disthem talking about it among themselves. But the facts speak for themselves. An actor working in runs a scene from The the mainstage at the Royal Court, Break of Day, Timberlake for example, gets the Equity-agreed minimum of £240 a week; in the Theatre Upstairs, it's £198.90. It's thing actor, confronts a non-negotiable (rendering even Rottweiler agents toothless) and democratic, which means that an actor with 30 years' experience playing a big part earns the same as an actor who left drama school last year and has two lines. In subsidised regional rep, the Equity in-jokey piece of writing since, in minimum shrinks to £178 (£237 for the superstars) plus a paltry touring allowance. From these figures deduct the agent's fee (10 per cent), tax, national insurance and such expenses as fares to auditions, £98 for appearing in Spotlight, then consider the pain of a bad review, and finally wonder why anyone thinks it's worth it. Even more Vic-

actors two weeks' notice and close the show, but forbids the actors

These are the lucky ones. Of 42,000 Equity members working in theatre, film and TV last year, 23 doing exactly this, but naked, five - there's always the chance that women in Hysteria in the West End are currently paid £15 a night). The average time worked was 16 weeks - only 15 per cent earnt more than £20,000 and 15 per cent worked more than 37 weeks (probably the

same 15 per cent). The best it gets in subsidised theatre is at the National. For doing two and a half shows per week (obviously an impossibility, but that's the way the sums are done), the minimum weekly wage is £270; top whack is £789, but only eight actors currently earn this much - Judi Dench, Diana Rigg and Michael Gambon among them. On top of this is a fee for every additional performance (minimum £18, maximum £69, average £36). A canny actor will be doing three plays in rep to earn as much as possible. The canniest, most marketable actor will also be fitting in tellies, films (only 8 per cent of actors make it into movies), and voice-overs (£360 for a couple of hours' reading) when they can. Not that anyone feels particularly sorry for an actor working at the National.

One actor who has just finished a play there said: "You want to work at the National almost more than anywhere because it means you can organise your life. You know where you'll be for the next six months, you spot Richard Eyre in the canteen and see lots of actors on motorbikes and you feel you've got a proper, manly job. The trouble is that when you're there, you long for the telly that gives you your own caravan in the Yorkshire Dales with golden eagles flying above and every couple of hours a lovely girl bringing a cup of coffee. Then you get that and find yourself trotting on to say your couple of lines and you wonder if anyone will ever take you greener on the other side."

seriously again. The grass is always Certainly it's greener at the National than the RSC, where you have to do more for rather less. For a 40-hour week, you get £220, with a subsistence fee for being in Stratford of £41.04. Leads get £600 a week, which explains why so many find Stratford a resistible invitation, particularly when contracts must be signed for 60 weeks and the distance from London prohibits doing a telly or ad to supplement the income. It also explains why Alex Jennings reads so many books on tape. "The opportunity to work on Shakespeare with some of the best directors and designers is very tempting," said one actor. "So is the chance to play four different roles in rep, but you have to leave your family in London and you come to a point where you can't afford the financial or emotional consequences."

Actors can and do say no, but

you would get for saying "Yes. Constable," in a telly drama. work at Stratford or the Royal Court because you are holding out There's little justice in any of it,

and actors are so grateful to be

working that they seldom com-

for a better-paid telly is never easy.

"What you really want is the job

that attracts the next job," said one plain. But one actor currently workactor. "The advantage of theatre ing in the West End in a transfer of cussed. Embarrassment prevents per cent didn't even walk on (for is that it's a permanent showcase a play is speaking for many when he deplores the way in which actors are themselves subsidising the subyour agent will turn up, bringing Steven Spielberg with her." sidised theatre. "My investment in The picture is a little brighter in a new play is as important as the the commercial West End, where backers who only come in once a market forces come into operation. play has proved itself," he argues. Indeed, the greater part of this Equity minimum is £232, but if an actor's career within the subsidised agent can't get this up to between £250 and £350, they aren't trying. theatre has been funded by "hard graft" elsewhere - commercials. There aren't many "marquee" names - actors who puts burns on teaching, voice-overs and televiseats - currently lighting up the sion. "The problem in this profession is that one can be forced into West End, but where there is one, there's probably a contract worth becoming a commodity rather than around £3,000 a week. According an artist. Actors want to be artists, to one producer, Maggie Smith, on and of course insecurity contributes a guaranteed amount plus probato our art, but there's a limit to how bly 10 per cent of the box-office. much indignity we should suffer. No will be getting at least £5,000 a week. "Maggie's a licence to print one would say to a plumber, "You enjoy your work so please give me

money, but there aren't many like a top-quality job for less than the going rate." I don't think we should her." Zoë Wanamaker, who has considerable pulling power, will be have to apologise for the need for government subsidy of the theatre. on around £1,000 a week for The Glass Menagerie. A big star in a Actors, like teachers and nurses, huge musical can earn £20,000 (a should be valued. If the National lump sum plus royalty), but Lottery changed the rules and made according to Nick Allott in available money for people, would Cameron Mackintosh's office, that the managements give it to actors?" has only happened once. To whom, The implications of starving the he ain't telling, but odds on it was subsidised theatre are significant. Jonathan Pryce in Oliver!. The Already you won't find experibiggest stars in musicals are likely enced, committed middle-aged to be cleaning up between £5,000 and £10,000. The musical ensemactors slumming it in regional rep. That territory has been left to ble, in stark contrast, will get the young and inexperienced.

o a certain extent, this is meaningless compared to what an actor can earn on the television. No one would disagree that Judi Dench is worth very much more to the make them more saleable." National than an annual basic of £41,000, but the National can keep its conscience clear by arranging her schedule so that it's easy for her to supplement her income with playing M in Goldeneve and making a series of As Time Goes By. Even Dame Judi, however, cannot command the ludicrous £30,000 Nick Berry reputedly earns for an episode as PC Rowan in Heartbeat. (Both Berry and Robbie Coltrane have a £1,000,000 two-year contract with Granada, but this is the most cynical end of the market where a lead actor can get 50 per cent of a production's entire budget and the rest earn little more than they would on the theatre.) Dame Judi is more likely to be in Patricia Routledge's league - Miss Routledge allegedly earns £7,500 for an episode of Keeping Up

between £300 and £350 a week.

When she left drama school, she thought, like every other student, she would do the classics. "It didn't take me long to realise I wasn't that kind of actor. You have to let the right niche find you; if you're a girl-next-door type, you'll do bet-ter on telly." Her combination of warmth and absence of danger proved to be a valuable commodity. She became a Persil mum, a Fairy Liquid mum, a Bupa mum. and beamed through building society and bank ads, earning £200-250 for a day's work (each ad took a couple of days) often in exotic locations (travel fee extra) and then "residuals", a percentage of the original fee each time the ad was shown. But the big time in com-Appearances. (No wonder Derek mercials is the buyout, when an Thompson squealed at the derisory actor signs an exclusivity contract £3,400 he was getting to play Char-lie in Casualty, small beer indeed to do no other commercials for an existing product. A paint company compared to the £350.000 Kevin paid her £30,000 the first year, Whateley gets for a series of Peak £35,000 the second and £40,000 for Practice.) Drama series pay better the third for her agreement to do no other DIY ads. For bigger than soaps on the whole. East-Enders's Wendy Richard reportedly names - Bob Hoskins, Maureen Lioman - such exclusivity in someearns £100,000 a year for more than 150 episodes, and regulars on thing like the BT ads is worth hundreds of thousands. It's good to Brookside are thought to get as little as £250 an episode, which is what talk. Pity so few can afford to do it.

Another effect is a gradual decline

in the quality of acting. As one

drama teacher said: "I've already

begun to notice how students try

to be attractive in their acting, rather than go for something truer,

because they believe that will

One actress I spoke to disagrees.

Discovering your saleability is what

being an actor is about, she says.

Perhaps culture is just a happy accident

ow does evolution produce a Masaccio fresco? That, or at least a slightly more sophisticated version of the question, is the mystery that preoccupies Professor John D Barrow in his book The Anful Universe. He isn't alone in his curiosity. Brian Eno, responding to my column about his speech at the Turner Prize dinner, puts the quest this way: "Why do we evolve culture? Why are we so interested in style? What does

Professor Barrow's book is brought up in an artistic rather than scientific tradition may find its treatment of aesthetic pleasure a touch cursory. The bulk of it is taken up with an explanation of the way that we are creatures of our universe. our perceptions moulded by its physics. To venture a risky echo, you might say that we have been made in its image.

But when it comes to making direct connections between the adaptive features of our primitive ancestors and a modern gallery-goer, the arguments can seem a little unconvincing. Barrow, for instance, writes about painted landscape triggering atavistic instincts of refuge and threat. But simple ideas of survival don't seem to be able to account for the complexity of our aesthetic taste here, the fact that "beauty" and "safety" have rarely, if ever, been synonymous.

In the 18th century, for example, a great cultural shift took place, in which old ideas of landscape beauty were overturned (a mental schism wittily recorded in Sense and Sensibility). Scenery that had been "repulsive" and "distressing become evocative and stirring. Scenery that had been "beautiful" and "harmonious" became, for some at least, dult and utilitarian. Does such a shift betray a sudden liberation from our biological drives or merely a new

twist in their complex effects? Similarly. Barrow's intriguing account of the importance of symmetry to primitive humans (if you see a symmetrical face staring at you from the bushes it may be about to make you its lunch) is directly at odds with Egyptian art, which gives a huge value to the profile, a resolutely asymmetrical vision of the world. Professor Barrow also has to strain a bit to reconcile our primitive drive towards order with a public distaste for modernist architecture. To be fair to Barrow, he

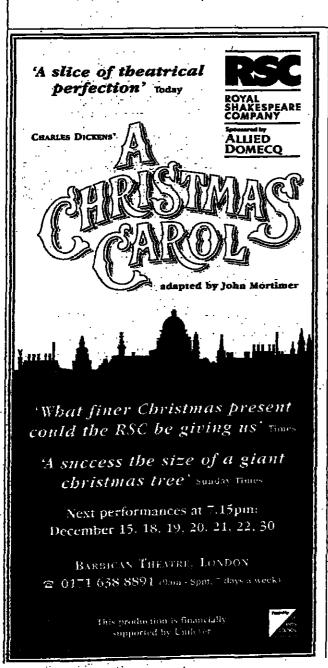
gives early warning against a crude misreading of evolu-



tion, reminding us that many biological characteristics are actually spin-offs of selected characteristics. Perhaps culture is simply a happy accifascinating, even if readers dent. Perhaps, even more alarmingly, it's an unhappy one. We have grown so attached to this faculty, so wedded to the idea that art is an inalienable part of our humanity, that we find it hard to imagine that it might be an unwanted corollary of some other selected ability, that it might actually be inimical to our survival. But how could we possibly tell what we might have been without art? Despite his initial caution, though, Barrow embarks on what looks like the first steps to an atomic theory of culture, with selected instincts about standing in for the atoms.

Of course, I don't believe for a moment that art holds us back though I suspect that its evolutionary value must operate at some higher level than Barrow explores here. He is wonderfully illuminating about why our senses are as they are, but he doesn't satisfy the question of why we should seek so determinedly to mislead them. After all, given the survival importance of accurately perceiving the real world (a point Barrow specifically makes), it seems contradictory that an organism should ever confuse the picture with its own inventions. Drumbeats could easily hide the soft pad of a predator in the night.

I think Brian Eno offers a more fruitful suggestion when he writes that "to cooperate you have to be able to imagine what it would be like to hold another picture of the world... I can imagine culture being a kind of simulator, an empathy lab, a way of trying things out with only symbolic risks attacked." Culture, then, offers us pleasure because it delivers the payoff for risk and exploration while protecting us from their consequences. It is easy to see how that might offer considerable evolutionary advantage, much more difficult to see how it might be grounded in the language and practice of science.





Sparrow cradles and lunar mushrooms

Michael Glover relishes the diversity of new poetry for children

armchair that is a new book by Shirley Hughes, and feel oneself transported back in time. to that glorious epoch when the Bodley Head was still an independent publishing house and not, as it is now, a couple of desks and a once-proud logo mislaid somewhere in Random House.

for very young children, about the fun of splashing through mud, building sandcastles and observing cows on "lazy" summer days that go to make up Rhymes for Annie Rose (Bod-ley Head, £9.99), the whole thing rhythmically regular in a lulling, deeply conventional

By sharp contrast, Skip Across the Ocean (Frances Lincoln, £9.99), a pictorially luscious collection of lullabies, action rhymes and nursery rhymes from across the world. wears its multi-cultural heart the Inuit; and a cradle song of the sparrows from Peru. It all goes to show how similar the lullables of different cultures and nations are to each other. Unfortunately, many of the Unfortunately, many of the slam through subject areas ships the slam through ships through ships th translations into English are so dull and rhymically brokenbacked that they read like ing her disabled mother, for William Carlos Williams on a example, or the refugee who bad day.

The most useful anthology of poetry for younger children this winter is Michael Bird's are too many times when the The Grasshopper Laughs rather lumpish versifying (Faber, £8.99). The illustra- makes for bad poems, and tions by Andrew Stooke don't when the jokes seem aimed to try to make a splash in their please adults - the poem about own right, thereby distracting that existential dog called us from the poems, and the John-Paul Sartre, for example. selection itself moves easily teel at all mappropriate, for example, to have that old beside an Elizabethan lyric by

George Pcele. Pass the Jim. Jam. This autumn she shows herself a very sprightly and accomplished versifier in two book-length

t has become something of a habit at this time of year to settle into the comfortable

Chased By A Vampire (Orion, £7.99) and The Empty Suit of Armour (Orion, £7.99) The funnier and more winning of dourly out of the castle and off into the night in pursuit of -what? Verse-making of this regular kind is usually marred by verbal redundancies or silly archaisms. Umansky sustains our interest, and a consistently And so it is again in the col-lection of verses and pictures to the poem's fine (and surexcellent level of writing, right prising) conclusion.

Matthew Sweeney, that surreal anecdotalist, brings his skewed perspectives on everyday reality well within reach of an eight-year-old in Fatso in the Red Suit (Faber, £8.99), his second collection of poetry for children. A poem called 'Mushrooms on the Malverns' is typical of Sweeney at his best. Why do mushrooms appear overnight? And why do they have brown flecks on their heads? They've been dropped from the moon, that's why. The flecks are particles of on its sleeve. Here are: action meteorites...Sweeney sperhymes from the Yoruba; a sad cialises in these sudden shifts song of an absent father from of focus, from the ordinary to the macabre.

Lindsay MacRae's You which seldom turn up in children's poetry - the child feedexpresses himself through his violent paintings. These are excellent. Unfortunately, there

The best poetry book of from past to present, from the autumn is Raymond Wil-Hughes to Anon - it doesn't son's Puffin Book Of Classic Verse (Viking, £14.99), in almost every respect (except favourite 'Michael Finnegan' that the poems ascribed to "Anna Bradsheet" are the work of Anne Bradstreet, a Kave Umansky is still best founding mother of American known for that excellent poetry) an exemplary piece of tongue-teasing picture book. publishing, especially in its apposite juxtapositions: Bun-



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Little,

Brown

A double life at the Woolwich

War poet and suburbanite, Roy Fuller made the ordinary peculiar. By Peter Parker



Roy Fuller (right) chats to Laurie London party in 1935

Roy Fuller: Writer and Society by Neil Powell, Carcanet, £25

of Poetry in 1968, he apparently made the frequent, ironic-rueful complaint that he was a poet who never quite caught on". Too young to be a Thirties Poet, too old to be a Movement Poet and too subsequently prolific to be considered a War Poet, he defied the easy categorisation that critics like. He spent his working life as a solicitor for the Woolwich Building Society, lived in suburban south London and remained married to the same woman from the

age of twenty-four until his death.

Defying the widely accepted belief that scandal and sensation are the principal ingredients of biography, Neil Powell has fash-ioned from this ostensibly unpromising material a book that is both finely discriminating and wholly absorbing. This reflects Fuller's own sense that "ordinary" life has its particular value orthodox payment came from edi-

Ithough Roy Fuller was and fascination. "I suppose for me elected Oxford Professor everyday life has never ceased to everyday life has never ceased to seem poetic life," he wrote in 1980, in what sounds like an echo of Edward Upward's alter ego, the Marxist poet Alan Sebrill, and Fuller's later volumes of poetry are almost exclusively concerned with the quotidian, more often than not derived from observations jotted down in notebooks.

Fuller was born in Lancashire in 1912, and spent much of his childhood, after his father's premature death, in rented rooms in Blackpool. He read widely, but left school at sixteen to become an articled clerk with a local law firm. He subsequently moved to London to study law and, like most young men with literary aspirations, was influenced both poetically and politically by the Auden Generation, expounding Marxist manifestos in letters to friends. An early poem appeared in the Sunday Referee and earned him a penknife, but more

tors such as Julian Symons (who became perhaps his closest friend) and John Lehmann. Fuller later described his first volume of Audenesque Poems as "satisfactorily rare", but at the time it received praise from Stephen Spender (whom he greatly admired) in the

Fuller's experiences during the war, in which he served with the navy, were thoroughly disillu-sioning. Unlike the poets of an earlier war, whose socialism was moulded by their service with the rank and file, close contact with 4.000 men crammed into a troopship led Fuller to the "appalling discovery that he had been mistaken about the essential nature of human beings; it was the most traumatic moment of his adult life, and it permanently affected his political philosophy". In later years Fuller, who was given to teasing, cultivated an old buffer Establishment duties at the Arts pation with "the idea of the dou-

Council and the BBC), but Powell suggests that the real shift that took place was that of "faith in a culturally enabling socialism giving way to a politically uncom-

difficult to recreate himself as a poet, and Powell is a severe judge of the first post-war collection Epitaphs and Occasions (1949). "Something has clearly gone wrong with the register of these poems," he writes, and one suspects that, like Sassoon after the First World War, Fuller was floundering around in search of a new voice. He had begun to write novels, and Powell's lucid discus-sion of Fuller's fiction will undoubtedly send readers in search of these volumes. The ambiguities in Fuller's character. which were never wholly resolved and perhaps explain the fence of irony he threw up around himself persona (particularly in his and his work led to a preoccu-

ble man, the divided self", claims Powell. Many of the novels, cast in the form of psychological thrillers in the Greene-Hitchcock tradition, seem to show Fuller nitted faith in culture."

After the war, Fuller found it ifficult to recreate bimself as a range of the contradictions he found in his own life.

His attention to the odditics of

the everyday ("pedestrian peculiarities," as he called them in one poem) and his habitual mode of defensive irony make Fuller a very English writer, and thus in danger of being underrated. But a great deal is going on beneath the surface. The sudden notes of unmediated feeling are all the more powerful for emerging from the immaculately groomed, neatly moustachioed facade.

In this eminently equitable life. Powell never attempts to make larger claims for Fuller than he is able to sustain by example and analysis. His criticisms are sharp. terse and often very funny, and his tone throughout is a perfect blend

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Suspicious of beauty

Jeff Nuttall regrets the drift of poetry into stand-up comedy

ment and scepticism extended towards poetry by the British public. Kathleen Raine and Alan Ross are left over from a time when this was not so. Unabashedly, they both write in a state of trance; they both pursue beauty in their subject matter and in their way of writing; they both write in lyric, which is to say poetic, language which doesn't feel it has to disguise itself as conversation, stand-up comedy, community activity, consumer

commodity or encounter therapy. Raine's On A Deserted Shore (Agenda, 5 Cranborne Court, Albert Bridge Rd, SW11 LPE. £6.00) is a sequence of 130 irregular stanzas about the death of a lover. The very subject matter places Raine in danger: this is an ocean wherein many have swum, from Keats's Isabella watering her basil to Nelson Eddie seeing spring break through again. Raine is doubly prone to this danger because she sees her dead love immortalised in dream ("only in sleep / Sweet island voices that make us weep") and nature ("Was waterfall, was fleeting flame, was empty air"). Even Christ Himself appears ("she took him for the gardener") and consoles the bereaved by embodying undying love: "a face too merciful / For my devil-peopled soul to bear.

So skilled a poet is Raine, however, so complete is her intensity of belief and feeling, that she soars above all the pitfalls. Clichés do not appear, nor a single scrap of tired language. We may not share her faith in the psychic muscularity of love but its hold is firm enough to keep her work fine. A similar faith incidentally, held firm for Francis Horovitz who comes to

mind as Raine's main follower. Alan Ross maintains his poetic identity at quite a different level. I doubt if a mind as acute as Ross's could be entirely unaware of the convincing charisma he achieves by presenting himself as a character not a million miles from the heroes of Greene and Conrad. The poems in After Pusan (Harvill, £9.99) constitute a creative re-start when Ross took a trip to Seoul in Korea after a breakdown in the mid-Eighties. He went in the wake of Isabella Bird, a Victorian travel writer whose account of an Oriental paradise contrasts

ne of the problems facing the British poet is the embarrass- hair and sandals are not admitted, and its Buddhist monastery where the monks sell kitsch and watch baseball on TV. This is recounted in the prose introduction, a piece of crisp journalism that recalls the days of Penguin New Writing and the London Magazine. James Englishman with a broken heart and an impenetrable decency. Ross's verse, when we get to it,

Imagism. It seems appropriate that a man who finds his regeneration in the war-torn East should take so much from the translations of Pound and Waley. The contrast between images of modern war and of an ancient culture serve him well. Perfumes evoke lost loves and moments in passing places are snapped into vision, often with graceful rhymes. Sometimes, as in the short poem "Amethyst", he solutions..." Although Fanthorpe achieves greatness.

It was during Ross's editorship of the London Magazine that British poetry began to get prickly palms about beauty as the defining concern of art. It was then that poets, bursting their typewriter ribbons to make verse sound like casual speech, virtually created the mode of the alternative comedian. Matters of moment, i.e. life, love and death, are covered in a tone appropriate to the ordering of groceries, a sort of widow's shrug. Suburbia governed the arts, the sangfroid of the privet hedge and the muslin curtain, moderation tion of the metre sounds in the ear and reserve in the service of respectable privacy.

John Hagley actually is a sort of tainly no better than it should be stand-up comic, the most recent in the line of performing poets from Beachcomber through Ivor Cutler to Spike Hawkins, though he lacks the obtuse oddness of Cutler and the crazy Dada of Hawkins. Love Cuts (Methuen, £8) is his fifth volume of disposable comedy. There is a crafty deployment of assonance and a jokey punning. One autumn a dog gets "knocktober." Someone takes precautions with his "safe spex." There are faint echoes of a remembered Catholicism and politically correct bisexual punchlines. The whole takes place in a seedy urban consensus of boredom, telly and playground nostalgia, the very

home of alternative comedy. U.A.Panthorpe has stronger sees him back home, painting the wryly with the modern Korea with religious echoes. In Safe As sea grey.

Houses (Peterloo Poets, £10) her cycle of poems about William Tyndale, who translated the first English Bible, have him levelling the high Latin with neighbourly English common sense. Fanthorpe shares with Stevie Smith the voice of a quirky female individualist, without pretension but with a Cameron comes to mind, another refusal to be deceived that borders on a refusal to be convinced; and with a hoydenish sense of mischief. She is at her best applying this is not Imagism but it is rooted in voice to received texts (by Kierkgard, Ibsen, Sir Thomas Browne etc.) but she can also be moving and exact in her details about the Second World War, an event in which the British suburban spirit discovered its strength. "O rare lit-tle world," she writes, "Imagined to gentle the English through war and Depression, and war, and peace and anything else, cheap,

can puncture the cosiness of such

and quite a bit less than might have

a world with some traumatising descriptions of the Blitz, this is the world in which she operates. Andrew Westerman also has an optimum pull towards the Forties and Fifties. The title sequence of The End Of The Pier Show (Carcanet, £8.95) is linked with references to a faded seaside resort, another happy-hunting-ground of the British suburban vision. Waterman writes with a tense controlled sadness about his fading eyesight in a world which is fading anyway. The sometimes irritating perfecas a level, dogged voice, articulating its way through a life that is cer-

been expected. In the suburban vision, a stoic pessimism is only sensible. Michael Glover observes it faithfully in Possible Horizons (Sinclair-Stevenson, £7.99). In the deserted seaside town where Glover finds himself, he casts himself as clown which is a mistake; there is nothing clownish about his view of poetry and the human predicament. Poetry is "debased, sullied, frail, absurd". It emerges as a rat to gnaw the party debris. Humanity licks at sunbeams and tastes filth. On a trip to France, Glover is rescued from his pessimism by Picasso, Blanchot and Braque, but he is only a tourist. His last poem

Seagull visions

Richard Tyrell finds pain and pitbulls in new Irish poetry

erek Mahon wrote some of the best poems of the Seventies and Eighties, and in The Hudson Letter (Gallery, £6.99) has written the loneliest of the Nineties. Opening with a love poem, proceeding through translations and cleribews, it ends with a long sequence evoking post-divorce bachelorhood.

Lonely is the word. Mahon describes a nightmare life. He is elated when five messsages ("5!") are left on his answerphone. He gives thanks for the consolation of the video recorder or a brief phone chat with his daughter (to whom he must apologise since he doesn't have the money for her school fees). His self-image is at a clinically-depressed low:
"I who once had a poem in the

New Yorker and spend old age, if any, in an old mac/ with the young audibly sneering behind my back." The howl of despair may be

painful, but this is his most human work to date. At times in the past Mahon has been distant, setting his intelligence at play and putting a gleaming enamel over personal feelings. An outstanding formal poet, it now comes as a revelation to have such a sustained focus on his private life, and to learn that he likes King Kong as much as the dainty art of Hokusai or Pieter de Hooch. This is a book that offers great rewards and is, alongside Glyn Maxwell's Rest for the Wicked, the new collection of the year.

Eavan Boland was in college with Mahon in the Sixties. In her Collected Poems (Carcanet, £9.95) she recollects sitting at a table counting out beats. Her fastidious nature underlies a poetry that has flourished in the last decade, though she admits she had a long

struggle with spontaneity. There are two strands to Boland. One the "domestic" poet who probes the nature of womanhood, imagining the wife-and-mother as a sort of Promethean heroine. The other has a roving intelligence that links subtle, often historical, ideas - as in 'That the Science of Cartography is Limited', where the straggling roads you see on Irish maps remind her of work given to starving labourers during the Great Famine. Her images are always precise, her candour and selfknowledge clear, and, whether writ-

The Tyrone poet John Montague is more prized in America than Britain, but his Collected Poems (Gallery, £13.95) might change all that. It opens with his three long poems, exhibiting his peculiar ability - a breakdown of complex issues into observations that have the power of myth about them. In one master-stroke, he evokes a whole town by imagining a seagull fly overhead and peer down on its people and their symbols.

Montague's subjects are the sectarianisms of Ulster, the lost histories of Gaelic Ireland, the organic chains of local life and the family. At his best, he shows how basic things in Ireland, a gaunt farm-house or a leaping fire in a Catholic grate, are part of a web of historical of folkloric associations.

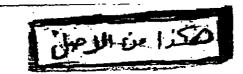
He has a deep understanding of character, especially the psychologies and habits of rural people. And his skill with the ordinary details of life make reading him - as was said about Seamus Heaney - feel "us if our minds had been refurnished." Brendan Kennelly, on the other

hand, surely doesn't mean us to take Poetry My Arse (Bloodaxe. £9.95) seriously, but it has rollicking episodes that make it a good Christmas stocking filler. Kennelly writes excessively, often poorly, often with a great humour. This is an "epic" about the life of Ace de Horner, who, we are told, is the type of artist you find in post-colonial cities like Dublin - a Brendan Behan for the Ninetics. Homer goes blind, boozes, bonks, keeps a pitbull terrier, and throws his poems into the Liffey. But beneath the goofiness we catch a glimpse of the

biting gossip of the Irish capital.

Modern Irish Poetry (Blackstaff, £14.99), edited by Patrick Crotty, is an excellent anthology. Crotty defines "modern" as post-Years, but argues that Irish poets often show Yeatsian obsessions. It is with the generations of the last thirty years -Heaney, the Ulster poets, Durcan and Boland - that one feels a sense

of full liberation, Crotty chooses over 250 pieces from the 1920s to today, though omitting some good poets (no Catherine Byron or Harry Clifton). He refreshingly includes dual texts by major Gaelic writers like Nunla Ni Dhomhnaill. And the historical line, through MacNeice, Kayanagh ing about a black fan, greenhouse and Heaney, is boosted by inclusion fruit or German girls in exile, each of recent voices like Maurice Rior-poem is engraved like a cameo.



Detecting Dorothy's secrets

The creator of Peter Wimsey turned personal tragedy into intellectual games. Marion Shaw reports

The Letters of Dorothy L Savers ed by Barbara Reynolds

Hodder, £25

hese are jolly letters. The ripping letters home of the schoolgir! Dorothy (how exhausting she must have been as a daughter) lead to the bossy letters of the undergraduate and then the argumentative, crudite, no-nonsense letters of the teacher publisher's assistant and detective teacher, publisher's assistant and detective author of the last twenty years this volume covers. There were twenty more years of life and writing to come, but 1936 is an appropriate point of departure. As her editor says, Dorothy L. Sayers was by then an extremely successful writer of twelve nov-els and a West-End comedy, and Lord Peter Wimsey was known, loved and occasionally hated the world over.

In that year, however, the year after TS Eliot's Murder in the Cathedral was performed there, she was somewhat surprisingly asked to write a play for production in Canterbury Cathedral. This marked a change of direction in her career; henceforth she was to devote herself to religious writings and translation, becoming, as Barbara Reynolds says, "one of the outstanding lay theologians of her time." That phase of her life remains to be told, what we have here is what many of her readers will consider of sufficient interest: the epistolary autobiography of the writer of such gems of detective fiction as The Nine

Tailors and Gaudy Night.
Discovering the autobiographical plot of the letters requires a certain amount of detective work from the reader, not in its facts, which Barbara Reynolds painstakingly charts, but in its feelings. Two, perhaps three, crises of some magnitude were endured by Sayers: the departure of the man she loved, John Cournos, because he wouldn't marry her and have children, and she wouldn't live with him without marriage and children; the birth of an illegitimate son by a man other than Cournos, and the rearing of this son as a secret. often elaborately kept, from her parents, most of her friends, and from the son himself: and third, the mental deterioration of her husband, Atherton Fleming.

These unhappinesses and anxieties were brushed off or silenced. Writing to her parents at 17 about her first communion, she concludes the account of dresses, veils, and other arrangements for a service of great importance to her, with: "P.S: I never can write about my feelings - that's why I haven't," and this sets the pattern of her correspondence. When Cournos left for America, her only comment was: "I'm feeling a bit dull at present - so many people seem to be away - especially all my new friends. John hasn't so much as sent a postcard since he went, though I hear from Dakers that he is alive and well, only very busy." When she wrote to the cousin who was to care for her child, she first pretended to be making arrangements on behalf of a friend, and then, when the truth was told, in a "Strictly Confidential" sealed letter within a letter, the confession concludes with: "But never mind about me - don't think about it, but just be fond of the little chap." The rest of the letter is concerned with practical arrangements, including possible difficulty in feeding the baby, "because he has been breast-fed." Such stoicism sometimes seems almost like indifference or callousness, as when her son's catching scarlet fever elicits the breezy "Dear oh dear! What a beastly nuisance for you ... Of course [he] must go to hospital - it is never right to nurse infectious diseases at home... Anyway, don't worry - children will get these things."

The displacement of feeling into common-sense action is, of course, the subments, mostly on sex and women's need stance of detective fiction, at least in the to be "fruitful": "When I see men callously scheme of things, as "the perfect Peter author would say.



Pure genius: Dorothy Sayers, with fellow novelist Helen Simpson, in convivial mood at the Detection Club

"golden age" to which Sayers belonged. Horror, violence and grief is cerebralised into an intellectual puzzle and the triumph of reason over chaos provides the reassurance the genre offers its readers. The mind that plotted the successful unravelling, via the rationality of Peter Wimsey. of the mystery of the poison-pen letters of Gaudy Night could plot its own conquest over jealousy and abandonment by force of argument, by making a rhetorical game out of the disaster. When the recently married Cournos returned to England in 1924 ("Both of us did what we swore we'd never do," Sayers pointed out) she argued with and harangued him in a way which energised her. Their past relationship was irrecoverable - he was married, she had a child - and this gave her the distance to anatomise where he had been at fault. The dissection was liberating and produced some of her most outspoken com-

and cheerfully denying women the full use of their bodies, while insisting with sobs w and howls on the satisfaction of their own. I simply can't find it heroic, or kind, or any-

thing but pretty rotten and feeble". Sayers said that her novels were not autobiographical, except in their locations as "not really [one] at all, but a novel with - the East Anglian fen country of her a mild detective interest of an almost childhood in *The Nine Tailors*, and the entirely psychological kind. She had beloved Oxford of her undergraduate days in Gaudy Night - and the occasional inclusion of sayings, events and personages from her life. One of the pleasures of this collection of letters is in seeing chance details from the life turn up as evidence in the novels. Most famously, there was Harriet Vane, as they seal their courtship, Maurice Ridley, who was seen by Sayers and his words provide a kind of farewell as an undergraduate reading his Newdi- verdict on these 37 years of letters. They gate Prize poem in 1913, was forgotten in too are talking to conceal thought, to avoid the flesh but remembered in the fiction as confession, but, like Wimsey's talk, they Lord Peter Wimsey, then reincarnated in are not thoughtless or without purpose. 1935 as the Chaplain of Balliol College, And they make a deuced good read, and was recognised, like a vital clue in the don't y'know, quite gas and gaiters, as their

Ridley appeared just as the concluding love scenes of Gaudy Night were being written. This was to be almost the last of her detective novels and she thought of it begun to grow tired of the subterfuge of detective fiction and was ready to move from the imposition of secular order to the revelation of a spiritual order. "I have been talking for twenty years to conceal my thoughts, she imagines Wimsey saying to

Fur coats, cocaine and Franz Kafka

lan Thompson marvels at the life of Milena '4711' Jesenska, favourite correspondent of St Franz of Prague

The women in Kafka's life were Kafka, Love and Courage: The many and adoring. A jilted sweetheart, Felice Bauer, sighed, "My Franz was a saint." Her friend, Grete Bloch, was also attracted to St Franz of Prague and claimed to have borne his child. Fleeing Nazi persecution, Grete was arrested in April 1944 near

Kafka's three younger sisters vanished in Nazi camps. The Trial, with its paranoid assignment of guilt, seems to foreshadow the Hitler terror. Translating Kafka's novel into Italian, the writerchemist Primo Levi observed: "Perhaps Kafka laughed when he told

NEW AUTHORS PHEN ISH YOUR WORK HORS WORLDWIDE INVITED OR SEND YOUR MANUSCR

Life of Milena Jesenska by Mary Heckaday Deutsch, £17.99

stories to his friends sitting at a table in the beer hall... but he cer-tainly didn't laugh while he wrote." Both Levi and Margarete Bloch were deported to Auschwitz from the same Italian detention centre. It was called Fossoli; but Fraulein Bloch never came back. Neither did Milena Jesenska, the subject of this intriguing biography. Best known as the recipient of Kafka's Letters to Milena, she was a glamorous Czech journalist who perished in a concentration camp outside Berlin. A gentile, she had Prague.

Jesenska was the most alluring. A and stealing flowers from ceme-

author but fell for his gracious tact and humour. Kafka's squeamish distaste for all things ripe and physical, however, inhibited sex. This was largely an epistolary passion; and Milena's letters were a comfort to Kafka against his anxieties. Only Kafka's side of the correspondence survives; letters were sent almost daily, an out-pouring that still glows with intimacy. It is said by some biographers that Milena was the

one love of Kafka's life. In post-war Czechoslovakia, however, Milena was regarded as an anti-communist bourgeois deviationist. Her posthumous rehabilitation did not begin until 1989 and the Velvet Revolution. Mary Hockaday's biography of this beguiling woman, Kafka, Love and Courage, is a triumph of imaginative reconstruction. It paints a lively picture of coffee-house helped Jews escape occupied Prague with its fur coats and prewar courtesies. The adolescent Of all Kafka's women, Milena Milena rebelled by taking cocaine green-eyed beauty, she was ten teries. Eventually the law caught up years younger than the Jewish with her in Vienna where the

doctor's daughter was attributed to trawled Prague's archives for her ал "erotic crisis". Only in Freud's

Yet, as Mary Hockaday makes clear, Milena should be remembered as more than just Kafka's correspondent. In the early 1920s, while living with her Jewish husband in Vienna, Milena was a well-known fashion reporter. She wrote hundreds of witty articles about the city's stock exchange, its cabarets and cafes she praised French underwear but complained about the absence of Czech Christmas cake, "There's nothing for it now but to sleep out Christmas under my quilt like a marmot"). Prague Jewry was largely German-speaking; before long, Milena was translating Kafka's work from German into Czech, Like her, Kafka was a follower of fashion; his father had run a haberdashery shop and Franz maintained a dandyish sense of style. Yet, as Milena sharply remarked, Kafka was "like a naked man among a multitude who are

Mary Hockaday has interviewed day is to be congratulated.

juvenile kleptomania of this all who knew Milena and has surviving articles. By the time Kafka died in June 1924, exactly one month short of his forty-first birthday, Milena had returned to Prague. She first adopted, then rejected Communism; with Hitler's sights fixed on Czechoslovakia, she became a patriot. In the face of Nazi censorship, Milena had guts to match her gall. She wrote: "Only one German soldier has to pass by a cafe for the glasses to shake and plaster to fall from the ceiling".

This was to be Milena's last hurrah before she was deported to Ravensbrück. Her camp number was 4714, but the inmates nicknamed her 4711, after the famous cologne. It was a hint of the old glamour before she died, at the age of 47, from a kidney infection. Today, Milena Jesenska's political journalism sheds invaluable light on central Europe before the war and communism. Kafka. Love and Courage is a moving tribute to a Czech heroine, and Mary Hocka-

Freeing the truth from a frozen grave

Robert Winder is moved by harrowing accounts of persecution and betrayal from the KGB files

The KGB's Literary Archive by Vitaly Shentalinsky trans by John Crowfoot, Harvill £18

provoked by perestroika. he cratic jargon in which their KGB scoured the KGB files on writ-case histories are east. ers and found a treasure trove. Quite apart from their bioable to document many mysterious deaths), he found Bulgakov's diary, the suppressed text of Mandelstam's satire on by lesser known names. In Stalin's camps, he writes. words often remained the only saving draught of liberty".

He even organises the less skilful testimonies into a suggestive new category: illiterate literature. Here for instance is the notebook of a 20-year-old called Ivan Okunev, who in 1938 was sent to the icy Kolyma peninsula for having an out-ofdate passport. One day Okunev and several others asked for sleeves (it was December) and were taken to a punishment cell and sprayed with a fire hose:

They turned it on and pointed it at us. We ran from one corner to another but they kept it pointed at us... And that day it was minus 50 degrees and the chassis of an automobile cracked with the frost. They sprayed us for half an hour and then the water ran out. Four hours later Kuliev came and began to say that we should go back to the barrack but we had all frozen together and could not move. Then he called over the fireman who came with a small axe and began to cut us apart...Then they dragged me by my feet into rack orderly announced time to

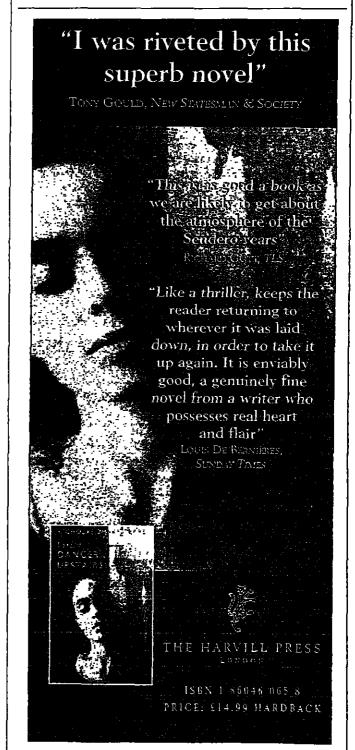
expect from Soviet literature - nothing.

Nothing could be more inspired to subvert the idea that literature is merely a could of hundreds of similar tales. matter of pretty phrase-making Shentalinksy narrates the persethan the written-in-blood work - cution of writers such as Isaac of the many writers persecuted Babel, Nina Hagen-Torn Andrei by Stalin, and Vitaly Shentalin- Platonov. Osip Mandelstam. sky, in this historic labour of Pavel Florensky and Mikhail research, has rescued an amaz- Bulgakov and they are all sad, ing body of work from the sad stories, given extra piquancy grave. In the hurst of fresh air by the flavourless tone of bureau-

While it is tempting to succumb to the myth of the writer graphical importance (he is as a kind of saintly truth teller in a barbarous world. Shentalinsky refuses to indulge this platitudinous view of literature. In perhaps his most telling Stalin, and a mass of memoirs—chapter, Informing as a literary genre", he demonstrates that few writers were saints. Every writer unjustly incarcerated or shot was indicted by (who else?) another writer. In the race to inform on one another, speed was essential: a classic joke concerned the condemned man who rued his laziness after a chat with a fellow-writer: "I went to bed thinking, I'll inform on him tomorrow. Next morning they picked me up: he was quicker off the mark".

The files reveal that the KGB was intimately engaged with both little-known writers and the greatest names, Maxim Gorky, for instance, wrote enthusiastically about Stalin's purges in Pravda: "The enemy must be exterminated ruthlessly and without pity, paying no attention to the gasps and groans of the professional humanists" But this callous dogmatism availed him. finds in the KGB files evidence that Gorky's son was murdered by doctors who turned a dose of flu into a fatal illness by getting him drunk and leaving him out in the snow.

Shentalinsky makes a strong the barrack and behind me case for the heroic status of litrolled up the others. Tears erature. But he does not want lamentations the curses of the us to fall into the trap of believguards. In the morning the bar- ing that literature enjoys, as it were, the last word. His book get up. I began to wake my wet is not a true chronicle of these accomplices but two were dead." dire years. It is just an account It is hard to imagine anything of bad deeds and bad people, more appropriate to the experi- aware always that the moving ence (even in translation) than memoirs of the few articulate this numb, frozen vocabulary victims can only hint at the and stricken grammar. It might irretrievable agonies of the be that this is simply what we millions from whom we hear



Vanity made flesh

27 years late, are we ready for Albert Cohen? By Emma Klein

Belle du Seigneur by Albert Cohen, Viking, £20

the French Academy's spoken by our hero in mufti Grand Prix du Roman in earn him a physical wound 1968, has enjoyed commer- that leaves a scar. In cial as well as literary suc- revenge, he declares, he will cess, with sales in Europe of nearly one million copies. seduce his quarry "in ways that women love and cannot nearly one million copies. Yet till this year, the centenary of Cohen's birth, it has remained virtually unknown and inaccessible to the English reader. What chance has this 974-page potpourri of passion and pessimism, cynicism and naiveté, satire and slapstick of making a

the doomed love affair between Solal, a devastatingly handsome Mediterranean Jew who rose from his exotic origins in the Greek island of Cephalonia to become Under-Secretary-General of the League subordinates, a breathtak-ingly beautiful Genevoise also a compelling anatomy utes of the protagonists, quickly takes hold. In lieu however, which contain the of Tristan and Isolde's love seeds of tragedy.
In the eyes of Cohen and

his hero, the genesis of ship of power and brute plaint. The same force, skilfully conceded by Cohen's lovers. an overlay of noble refineguise of a shabbily-dressed, toothless, white-bearded old Jew. In fairytales of the Beauty-and-the-Beast varitranscends apparent physi-story. At root, with its failed to save his people.

Delle du Seigneur, Albert cal imperfections, such a Cohen's gargantuan gambit may succeed. Here tour de force which won the peerless words of love resist, foul and filthy

ways..."
Such a bizarre opening and the premise on which it is based may deter many an English-speaking reader in the politically correct Nineties and here the deficiencies of the English lannark today? guage prove an additional The heart of the novel is handicap. Solal's declaration of love, spell-bindingly incantatory in the original French, is virtually untranslatable. Nevertheless, Belle du Seigneur, on the whole very creditably served by David Coward's translation, develops into an epic of potion, Solal needs only a flutter of his lady's eyelids. "Love led us to one death," amour passion is the wor- is Francesca's unforgettable plaint. The same is true for

In Dante's Inferno, Paolo ment. Yet Solal's yearning and Francesca are doomed for the tenderness that to float perpetually on the women display after the wings of love. In the final heat of passion condemns third of the novel, Solal and him to seek this poisonous Ariane are condemned to a elixir. To attain a love of a similar fate. Cohen shows, different order, he attem- through the consciousness pts, at the outset of the and antics of his hero, how novel, to win his lady in the a life of "noble" love in iso-

lation is equally deadly. Notwithstanding passages of lyricism which rival the Song of Songs, Belle du ety, where purity of soul Seigneur is more than a love is to be the king who has

superb, minutely observed satire of human pretensions and frailties, its frequent, haunting allusions to death lurking in wait, it is the scriptural "Vanity of Vanities" made pulsating, exuberant flesh.

This theme is reflected in the varied cast of characters, from the cuckolded Adrien Deume, toadying bureaucrat yet gentle and devoted husband, to Solal's comic Cephaionian relatives, whose outlandish outbursts are laced with smatterings of wisdom, from the Hungarian countess Solal abandons to Deume's fos-ter-father. Most are redeemed by an essential humanity, though Cohen has no patience for the smug and self-serving. The lengthy stream-of-consciousness passages, Cohen's principal means of of Nations; and Ariane adulterous passion in the establishing character, are Deume, wife of one of his Tristan and Isolde/Paolo sometimes rivetting but could become tedious, particularly the faux-naif intearistocrat who has married of one-dimensional love. In rior monologues of the anibeneath her. It is the very the "noble heart," Dante's mal-loving yet obsessively Mills and Boon-type attrib- Francesca claims, love narcissistic heroine, Adri-

> recurs throughout the novel, with the menace of Hitler and the climate of residual anti-semitism frequently, if briefly, evoked. A central, rather extravagant episode in a Berlin cellar with Nazi jackboots marching above, introduces the hunchbacked dwarf, Rachel, a soul-sister of the hero and a counterpart to Ariane, the priestess of love. Once again Solal tries to atone for his ambivalence towards his Jewish origins, this time by parading in the Berlin streets in prayer-shawl and phylacteries. His final tragic destiny

The Jewishness of author and hero is a *leitmotif* which



Bring me the head of John the B: Leon Bakst's typically rich and vivid costume design for "Judith with the Head of Holofernes". 1922. Just one of a score of sumptuous illustrations from Leon Bakst and the Ballet Russes by Charles Spencer (Academy Editions, £39.50), a gorgeously evocative study of the heyday of 20th century dance, masterminded by Diaghilev, inflamed by Nijinsky and given its sultry tang of orientalism by the St Petersburg-born artist who died in puzzling circumstances in Paris at 58. There are few better introductions to the extraordinary "Slavophile renaissance" that overwhelmed Europe in the years leading up to the first world war

Triangular passions

Harriet Paterson reads a novel of war and frustration

Midnight Madonna by Sue Bradbury Richard Cohen Books £8.99

War. Two boys, Daniel and Philip, meet at school, one rich and smooth, one poor and gawky; the girl of the piece, Edith, is Philip's friend from home, red-haired and bossy. They stage theatricals in the holidays, they have an uneventful time at Oxford, remaining "above" politics. The author has not cast them from the idealistic-volunteer mould; on the contrary, they visit Spain on a whim in 1935, quite unprepared for the fate that awaits them.

Through the course of the book all permutations of two-out-of-three are formed and dissolved. Sue Bradbury delineates with perception the workings of deceit accompanying these pairings, as betrayal is followed by reinforced demonstrations of loyalty to the third. Dynamics within the triangle shift with different sur-roundings: at school Daniel is at ease, while Philip has the upper hand, being closer to Edith, the boss. In Spain, things change again. Daniel starts off ahead even of Edith, learning the language and making friends, but ultimately it is only the misfit Philip who comes home with any glory, having

worked in a war hospital. Ms Bradbury's treatment of the Spanish Civil War is more atmospheric than discursive. The war acts as an engine to turn the wheels of narrative and reveal character, rather than constituting a focal point in itself. The author steers clear of gung-ho For Whom the Bell Tolls territory: no bonding with partisans or blowing up bridges here - indeed, her protagonists are conspicuous for their inability to become Hemingway heroes, much to their own dissatisfaction. The question of involvement in war

is, however, one of the book's central themes. Edith and Daniel's political apathy is a rejection of their parents' fiests and much sipping of manzanil-absorption with the First World War. lan sherry. Bradbury occasionally Edith's father is a vicar who did not slides into bodice-ripper phrasing. fight, but his faith does not protect him from guilt, nor from envying Daniel's father, a cavalry officer who lost a leg. had been mapped out long before.")
As the vicar puts it: "Alive and whole. but this aside, Ms Bradbury's debut Not a good feeling after a show like has plenty to offer.

and record at the engineering of the fighting and engineer on sering town one

Sue Bradbury's first novel is a variation on the eternal triangle, set against a backdrop of Marlborunable to run his estate effectively. ough, Oxford and the Spanish Civil Bradbury questions standard heroic values, suggesting that an honourable position in the hierarchy of suffering is not necessarily a good place to be.

Unable to draw any clear conclusions from this heritage, the next generation wavers from irresolution to indifference. In Spain, two out of the central to rise to the occasion and they are all bundled ignominiously out of the country when the going gets tough. Daniel fatally undervalues the incipient signs of war and his scant reflections after the event lack any depth of analysis - the most profound summary of his experience he cun produce is "a show in which he had played a small part, not very adequately." Edith, having shown early promise as a strong and intelligent woman, turns out to be impervious to the wider issues raised by the fighting and takes from Spain only the complacent memory of her own personal

romantic conquests.

The bullfight - an essential constituent of any book about Spain here proves to be a symbolic indica-tion of the frustrated expectations that are being worked out. Whilst in The Sun Also Rises, the bullfights are a natural climax to the fiesta and perfectly capture all those macho tensions that are sparking off, in this case when the fight finally arrives it rains, and the bull is bored and listless. Bradbury's down-playing creates a sad story of inconclusive lives, personalities cut adrift by war.

Nevertheless, the book's surface is much less gloomy than this suggests. and the three friends have a varied and colourful time grasping at the "real" Spain. Philip's taste in art draws in the paintings of Goya and El Greco, whilst Daniel's conversation lessons bring in Lorca et al. There's some flamenco guitar, of course, dangerous nights in low bars, dressing up for the ("Daniel raged and wept inside" "their marriage sealed a destiny which



Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst



What I Lived For by Joyce Carol Oates (Picador, 8.99)

New York real estate developer "Corky" Corcoran, has an Irish kid's face and a "foxy-shrewd" brain. Sometimes he's so goodlooking, women stare at him in the street, but at other times he looks as battered as an old football. Oates charts the pulse of the American male with virtuosity; as densely written as all her books - many of her sentences take almost as long to climax as Corky - it's her most compelling since Black Water.



Lifting the Veil by John Simpson and Tira Shubart (Coronet,

On the same flight which brought Khomeini back from French exile, Simpson was in at the birth of Islamic Iran. Written with his American partner, this is an absorbing tour d'horizon of a diverse country. Iran's duality is summed up in Shubert's description of girls swimming in the sea, still wearing chadors which spread like an inky stain around them.



Henrietta by Henrietta Moraes (Penguin, £6.99)

The most impressive thing about Henrietta Moraes's autobiography is how good she looks in her photographs. It requires a hearty constitution to survive typhoid, crabs, sex in Lucian Freud's sink, and caravanning through Wales - not to mention a life-long dependency on drugs and alcohol - and still come up looking as fresh as a daisy. Fascinating confessions of a hard-boiled bohemian.



Curzon by David Gilmour (Papermac, £13.00)

Curzon's five years as Viceroy of India marked the apogee of Empire. Yet he made an implacable enemy of Kitchener, who secretly engineered his downfall, and despite subsequent success as Foreign Secretary, was pipped by Baldwin for the top job. Complex but guileless, passionate but starchy, he makes a superb subject for this biography in the grand style.



Funny Boy by Shyam Selvadurai (Vintage, 5.99)

A "girlie-boy" from the start, Arjie shunned afternoon cricket matches in favour of endless games of "bride-bride" with his female cousins. Bedecked in a white sari, flowers and lipstick, he experienced a joy matched only by access to his aunty's stash of American cosmetics. A. sweet evocation of a Sri Lankan childhood spent in the company of Nancy Drew mysteries, love comics and romantic

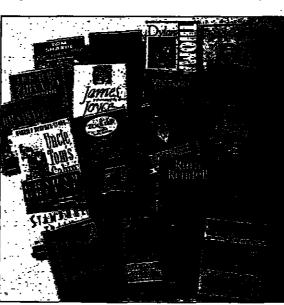


An Alphabet of Villains by Brian Sewell (Bloomsbury, £8.99)

You'd expect him to view Warhol as "intellectually numb" and Schnabel as "empty bombast", but Sewell's talent to abuse knows no bounds. He slams Bellamy's "braw braggartry", Auerbach's "muddled bog of paint" and Hodgkin's "indecisive dribbling". Repeated in 80 reviews, it becomes a wearisome drone. Since Sewell clearly detests modern art, why bother?

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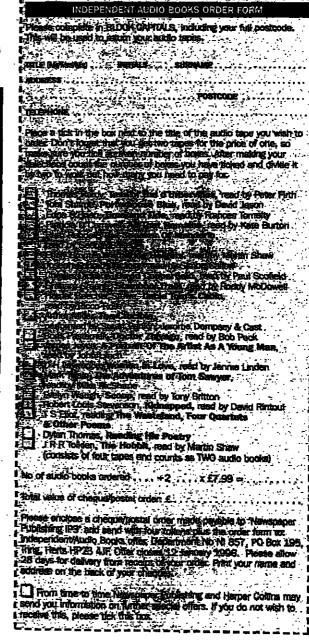
For instance, Frances Tomeity reads Time And Tide, Edna O'Brien's powerful tale of love, betrayal and self discovery. Against her mother's advice, Nell marries a brutal man and, eventually breaking free, takes strength and comfort in the lives of her two sons. But when they reject her Nell must face transfer along.

tragedy alone.
Tony Britton reads Evelyn Waugh's Scoop, where tyrannical newspaper baron Lord Copper has a very good idea.
Well, up to a point! He confuses William Boot, a nature notes
columnist, with John Boot the celebrated novelist and hires the former as foreign correspondent to cover an interesting little war in an obscure African country. His tale of an in-nocent abroad is a richly comic satire containing a wealth of memorable characters.

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property

'We have had the chance to get to know each other as adults in a way I never knew my own parents'

What happens when grown-up children return to live with their parents? By Anne Spackman

dren returning for Christmes this year - not because they don't like them, but because they are aiready there. The phenomenon of the 20-something child coming back to live at home is becoming a feature of most prosperous neighbourhoods in large towns and cities. It is partly due to the rise in rents
up by as much as 10 per cent this year. But the underlying cause is the change in employment patterns, meaning longer periods of education and training, less job security, or, indeed, no job at all for many people in their twenties.

The National Child Development Study, which has followed a group of children from their birth in 1958 through to the present day, found that about one fifth of children return to live at home at least once. It also discovered that the numbers returning rose when unemployment rates increased.

The new trend mostly affects the urban middle class, whose houses are large enough to take two generations in reasonable comfort. In cities such as Oxford, Cambridge. Bristol and London, where good accommodation is expensive, families are turning their basements or top floors into semi-separate accommodation for their children. (Children are less likely to return home if their parents live in the country because the job prospects are poor and social isolation makes it less attractive.)

But how does it work out? How easy is it for parents to adapt to the idea that their house is also their child's house and that the child is now an adult? How easy is it for people in their twenties who are used to the freedom of student life?

The generation of affected parents grew up in the Sixties. Many said how much closer they were to their own children than they had even been to their parents. Working mothers felt their children were aware of the demands on their time and accepted they had their own life to lead. They themselves had been able to buy large houses rel-atively cheaply. For their children the only option was shelling out hundreds of pounds house and have friends round for dinner.

a month for a grotty flat. The biggest problem on both sides seems to be one of perceptions. A few parents it's absolute bliss. When Tom was at school expressed the porru that parents are seems. expressed the worry that people would think and I was working he used to go and have although they didn't fear that themselves. Some children were reluctant to advertise the fact that they were living at home - not they have their privacy, that they don't get because they disliked it, but because they felt that it was not the done thing.

Amanda Theunissen is a television pro-

ducer, living in Bristol. She and her busband have been sharing their house in Clifton with their son Richard, who returned home at the age of 24 to train to be a lawyer. He flat somewhere central but it's not really lived on the top floor, but not in a self-contained flat. He has just moved to Cardiff to London I feel it would be right to get a bigdo his solicitor's articles.

"We've always been very close as a family," says Mrs Theunissen. "There was a brief period when my daughter was back at home, too. From my point of view it has been nothing but a bonus. We have all had the chance to get to know each other as to have a sense of family in that way."

any parents may not be looking adults in a way I never knew my parents.

"Our ways of life are almost the same -"Our ways of life are almost the same we read the same books, we listen to the same music, we laugh at the same jokes. I like their friends. I get such pleasure from their company. It makes the house more interesting. It makes a great difference that this arrangement is by choice rather than imposition. It would be terrible if they

thought they were stuck here forever." Richard Theunissen adds: "The parentchild relationship has been transformed. I am no longer a child living in my parent's house; we are adults living together - though I'm conscious that it is still the parental home.

"Tve never felt particularly restricted, partly because of the size of the house and party because or the size of the house and party because my parents were so accommodating. By and large I have enjoyed it very much. Both my parents are, I think, people I would be interested in anyway.

"The only real drawback is a feeling that you see your contemporaries are establishing their own because and you are not

lishing their own homes and you are not doing so yourself. There is a perceived pressure that it is peculiar not to have done that, even though I know a number of people

Catherine Porteous is a trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. She and her husband live in the main part of the family home in Notting Hill, west London. Their son Tom, 35, who works abroad for much of the year, spends his time in London living in the flat downstairs with his wife Amira and son Younus. "We have something of a tradition of extended families," Mrs Porteous explains.
"My parents lived in the flat downstairs

when the children were small, so I hope I've learned from that experience. My mother was a model of discretion and my father was not. He used to come in at any time and bor-row books and leave his cigarette ends all over the place.

"We are so lucky that we have a lovely daughter-in-law, who thinks the family is very important. When we are away for the weekend they can spread out into our But they always clear up afterwards.

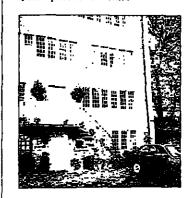
I get to see my grandson all the time. But it all has to be worked at. It's important that bounced on all the time." Tom Porteous is equally as satisfied: "I

don't spend that much time in London, so when I do come back it's nice to have a flat which is usually empty and beneath my parents' house. It would be great to have a big affordable. If we needed to settle down in ger place. But it's very nice to be here.

"It works for us. Our son gets to see his grandparents and his cousins. I remember when I was a child and my grandparents lived in this flat, going down to have sup-per with them. I think it's good for children



Househunter Golcar, West Yorkshire



If this former mill were overlooking a canal in a city it would cost £120,000 per floor. Instead it overlooks the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, currently the subject of a landscaping programme, and costs £120,000 for the whole fourstorey building. It was converted into a home three years ago, with a vast open-plan room on the top floor, three bedrooms, a sitting room and a study. "Additional land to the side of the property needs your green fingers," says the agent. In The Sticks (01434 381404)

For What It's Worth

It will surprise few people who have been through the experience of "having the builders in" to hear that half those working on domestic jobs have no relevant qualifications. This information comes in a report for the Joseph Rowntree Trust. With nearly half of privately owned homes more than 50 years old and 27 per cent more than 75 years old, the report stresses the need for high quality maintenance. Its authors suggest the introduction of a simple contract for small jobs, better vetting by trade organisations and the provision of more accessible training. However, they point out that one of the biggest problems is persuading customers not to employ builders who cut corners and avoid VAT in order to keep down costs.

An estate agent in Kent is introducing a scheme to try to break the vicious circle of shortages in the family house market in the Home Counties. There are currently too many buyers chasing too few houses in the £150,000 plus bracket. Calcutt Maclean in Ashford is drawing up a register of houses whose owners are in this position. The owners register with the agency, which releases a description of their home to other owners in a similar position. The house is not advertised on the open market. Calcutt Maclean (01233 812070)

Who's Moving

Mats Wilander is selling the home he owns but does not occupy in Eaton Terrace, Belgravia. It is currently rented out for £66.000 a year. The Swedish tennis star bought the house as an investment in 1989, but is now switching his money to New York. Egertons is asking £1.25m for the house.

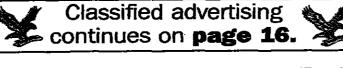
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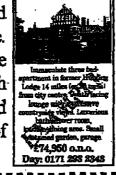
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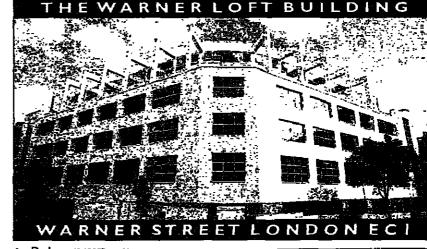
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travel scotland



The difference between hill-walking and mountaineering: ice

By Victoria Pybus

ce and snow may be the curse of drivers, but for mountain climbers they call for a rush to the nearest summit to enjoy thrills and challenges in confrontation with the frozen elements. For anyone contemplating a vertical challenge, the prime peaks and ridges are those of Scotland, principally the Grampian and Cairngorm mountains, and to a lesser extent the Torridon region in the north-west.

Hill-walking is a summer pursuit, but hill-walking in winter is mountaineering. Winter courses for the inexperienced are essential. Their aim is to teach the basic skills, starting with navigation. After you have acquired compass proficiency you should try it in blizzard conditions, when direction-finding and timing be-come survival skills. Beginners should also practise such essentials as walking

in crampons and using a rope.

The most popular climbing areas in Scotland are Glencoe (including the 8km ridgewalk along Aonach Eagach on the north side) and Ben Nevis (Scotland's highest peak at 1344m), both on the western side of the country. The east is colder and drier than the west, whose coastal climate produces unique climbing conditions including white, sparkly, hoar frost which can be several centimetres deep. Torridon, though more northerly, is nearer the sea than Ben Nevis, and the Gulf Stream can ruin the wintry possibilities of its Mts Liathach and Eighe.

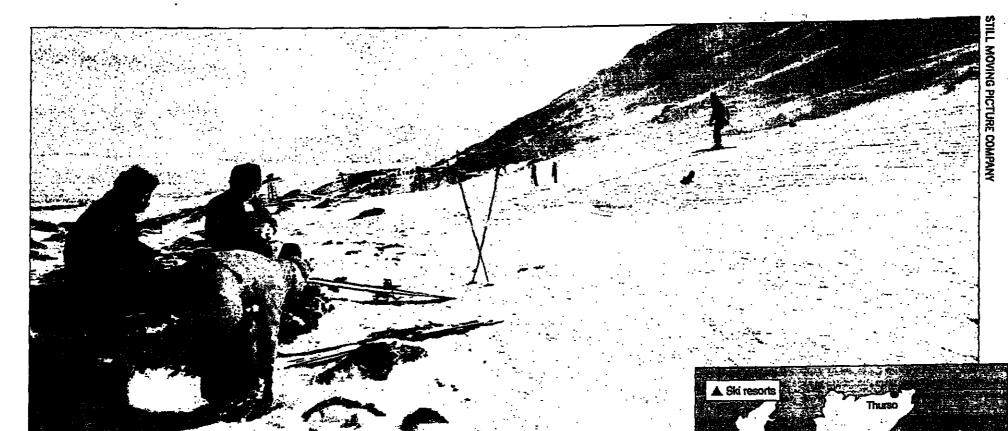
Ice in its many forms co-stars with snow in winter climbing. Most Scottish iceclimbing takes place in guileys where the snow has melted and frozen several times, forming a surface hard enough to grip on to with basic equipment. With newer and better equipment, climbing on icesmeared faces and buttresses has become increasingly popular. It is even possible in a hard winter to climb on giant icicles, some of them 100m long, formed where water drips over the crags and precipices.

As any winter mountain enthusiast will tell you, part of the fascination of climbing is the way the climate produces constantly changing conditions, while the mountains themselves have so many facets and formations that you can never tire of them, which is reason enough to get your crampons on.

For further information, contact Kevin Howett, The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (01738 638227), based in Crieff, Perth. The MCS also organises one, two and three-day winter skills courses in January and February. For women enthusiasts the MSC can provide access to a networking group. Glenmore Lodge (01479 861276) in Aviemore runs summer and winter training courses for beginners up to the highest levels of expertise. Beginners' all-inclusive, five-day courses cost £216. Martin Moran Mountaineering (01520 722361) organises courses in the Torridon region. An all-inclusive five-day standard course costs £360.

Scotland has more lifts and more pistes than ever before. And in Glenshee there is even the prospect of snow

By John Arlidge



HOW THE SCOTTISH SKI RESORTS MEASURE UP

Nevis Range

35 runs, 11 lifts. Around 90,000 skiers came here during the 1994/5 season and it is hoped that numbers will be up to 100,000 in 1996. This season the ski area has doubled in size and there are two additional lifts. Future plans include the construction of a further chairlift during the summer. Nearest town Fort William. Snow reports: 01397 705825

Caimgorm

32 runs, 17 lifts. The most popular of Scotland's ski resorts, with 211,000 skiers last season. For the moment, this figure more or less fills capacity so ski numbers are not expected to increase significantly although the new snowboarding facilities should attract more people. earest town - Aviernore (10 miles). Snow reports: 01479 861261

20 runs, 12 lifts.

Improvements this year include a hi-tech snowgrooming machine, moving and flattening snow and grinding up ice. Last winter 45,000 people visited and there are hopes that numbers will be up 10 per cent this year, particularly since snowboarding has proved very popular here. Nearest town ~ Aviernore (30 019756 51440

Glenshee

38 runs, 26 lifts. New this year, a snowboard academy. Late snowfalf delayed the start of the visitor numbers for 1994/95 were down to 129,000 as opposed to 180,000 the year before. More skiers and (especially) snowboarders are expected this year. Nearest town - Pitlochry Snow reports: 013397

14 runs, 7 lifts. Now open every day and owned by the same company that manages Glenshee - one of the benefits being that joint ski passes with Glenshee when the resort was open for just five days a week, 35,000 skiers came here. Many more are expected in 1995/6. Nearest town -Fort William. Snow reports: 01855 851226

Operators are also develop- years ago, many resorts offered peratures, skiers were still on the

cottand's skiing industry, Mor. On-piste catering has also gorm, near Aviennore, which which has traditionally investment, a poor image and the vagaries of the Scottish weather, looks set to grow this year. All five resorts north of the border -Cairngorm, the Lecht, Nevis Range, Glencoe and Glenshee - have invested more than £2m in new lifts, extra miles of piste and better après ski for both skiers and snowboarders. Tour operators hope that the new developments, coupled with rising prices on the Continent, will tempt up to one third of Britain's two million skiers to take to the hills at home.

The biggest expansion is at the Nevis Range, near Fort William, where the climber Alison Hargreaves, who died in August, skied regularly. Two new lifts have been built there and the ski area has increased 38 runs including the longest in from 300 to 600 hectares. There are now 11 lifts serving 35 runs around the 4,000ft-Aonach most popular resort: Cairn-

the Rob Roy T-Bar (the Holly wood kilt movie, Rob Roy, was filmed in nearby Glen Nevis). Snowboarding has become

big business over the past year, and the resorts now offer instruction as well as board hire. In Glencoe (also in the Nevis range of mountains) the new academy offering snowboarding classes is just one of a series of developments which include a new beginners' lift and two snow grooming machines. Glencoe has seven lifts serving 16 runs, including the longest vertical descent in Scotland -2.600ft. Skiers can buy one pass which covers both Gleucoe and one of Scotland's eastern resorts - Glenshee in Royal Deeside (which the Glencoe Chairlift Company has recently acquired). There, 26 lifts serve

Scotland at 1.25 miles. Also in the east is Scotland's

skiers. It boasts nearly 30 miles of downhill runs on 32 pistes. The Cairngorm Chairlift Company, which runs the resort, is hoping to win approval for a mountain railway - the first modern furnicular to be built in the UK - to speed skiers to the slopes. At the nearby Lecht, existing pistes have been upgraded and the ski school expanded. Snowboarding has

been introduced on the 20 runs.

In the past, skiers (almost half of whom come from south of the border or northern Ireland) have criticised the fragmented information and booking services for weekend and longer breaks. This year the Scottish Tourist Board has introduced a single telephone booking line through AT Mays in Aberdeen. Skiers and snowboarders can book all accommodation, equipment and lift passes through Ski Scotland

improved with the addition of last year attracted 211,000 ing alternative Highland games, only average facilities and notably archery, falconry and off-road driving, to cater for non-skiers. At the same time, cross-country or Nordic skiing has been introduced in more areas than ever before. Taken together, operators say, these changes will ensure that the number of skiers this year reaches the 1987 peak of 665,000. Cally Fleming, a manager at the Nevis Range, said: "During the 1980s visitor numbers were very high but then the

recession started and the figures dropped. In recent years we have been seeing increases again. With all the new developments - and with, hopefully, a good snow winter - we could hit 100,000." Ms Fleming insists that the latest investments will help scotch the myth that resorts north of the border offer poor value for money. "Skiing in Scotland has been transformed in recent years. It was true that as recently as five

equipment. Capacity was low and there were queues and overcrowding. Everything was rather outdated. But competition between all the five resorts. coupled with the fact that many skiers who come to Scotland expect the high standards they have already experienced in the US and the Continent, has

helped force up the quality." Although resort operators have tackled the problem of under-investment, Scotland's other problem, the weather, remains. Glenshee is the only Scottish resort with a snowmaking, as well as grooming, machine: the relative humidity of the resorts nearer the west coast is too high to make manmade snow production feasible. Meanwhile, poor snow falls mean there have been just a handful of skiing days this year. Tour companies are now hoping for a repeat of 1994 when because of plunging spring tem-

به ارد

- French

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At the moment there is not enough snow in Scotland for the skiing season to start. Overnight snowfalls have provided only light and insufficient coverings frustrated skiers should head for the 200m dry ski slope at The Lecht. The five resorts are hoping that the season will begin at least by I January, the date on which skiing started last season. Ski Scotland Reservations (covering all five resorts) is on 01224 590 000. For snow reports call Ski Hotline Scotland 0891 654 654 and Ski Cali Scotland 0891 700 777. The Ski Scotland brochure is available from the Scottish Tourist Board 0345 511 511. Five day packages, including bed and breakfast, equipment hire and ski passes,

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Snow's up

t's test time again, so pay attention. Where is the world's fastest funicular railway? Zermatt? Val d'Isère? No; I'll give you a clue: it's in the same ski area as Austria's highest cable car. I can see the puzzled look on your face. Has St Anton suddenly speeded up its dear old Kandaharbahn? Has Solden acquired a state-of-the-art funicular? Could it be Kaprun's Kitzsteinhorn? No. no and no. The answer, as many racers who train there could tell you, is the Pitztal

glacier. You may have heard of the Tuxer and Stubai glaciers, as well as the Kitzsteinhorn. But most British skiers have not heard of the Pitztal.

This may be partly because metres. of the area's confused identity. There is no large, easily identified resort in the valley of the Pitz; instead, there is accommodation in a series of der, and at present there is small villages, many of which still a real danger of that in

fall within the administrative area of St Leonhard (itself an insignificant village) which is in the high part of the valley called Innerpitztal. The nearest village to the skiing - too new to appear on even quite detailed maps - is Mandarfen. The place at the head of the valley that does appear on maps (Mittelberg) consists of two hotels and the lift station. But I have reached an agree-ment with Gabriele in the Mandarfen tourist office:

"Pitztal" it is. I've had it in mind to visit the Pitztal for some years. What triggered my visit this week was that the area claimed the most impressive figures on last week's snow report: snow depths at both the top and bottom of the area of 190cm. Well, maybe the glacial ice did have something approaching two metres of snow on top in some special spots, in others, I have to report, it had precisely zero

But never mind, Hitting a patch of ice at speed is a lot less damaging than bitting the tip of a submerged boul-



Snow depths at Pitztal in Austria are most impressive: 190cm at top and bottom of the area Photograph: Impact

even the best-covered nonglacier resorts. In due course fresh snowfalls will cover those blue patches for the winter. And the snow should then last; the low point of the skiing is at 2750m - slightly higher, for example, than La Saulire, between Méribel and Courchevel

Even with a top height of 3440m, this means that Pitz-"only" 700m or so, a figure

comfortably beaten by the Hintertux glacier area and less comfortably by the Stubai one. But it offers a good range of runs, including testing reds and a couple of short stretches that deserve their black grading. If you're looking for somewhere to polish your technique with the aid of good snow, include it on your Unless, that is, you're fussed about queues or evening action. The afore-

mentioned funicular (which, incidentally, I don't believe to be as fast as the more modern French lifts) is the only way up, and for most people the only way down to the valley (descents on skis require good snow and guidance). Taking

200 people a time and running at the most every 10 minutes, it generates queues; on a fine spring afternoon, they must be serious. The high-point of the area,

reached by a multi-cabin cable-car, gives long and spectacular 360 degree views, and on the occasion of my visit (on Monday) gave a view of what seemed to be some approachtal has a vertical dimension of ing weather. But that's

Snow conditions

It has been a mainly snowless week in the Alps, which is the last thing the skling business wanted: snow is needed practically everywhere. On Thursday afternoon in the Chamonix Valley the only skiing was a single piste in Les Houches; at least one major British tour operator is switching this weekend's arriving skiers to Courmayeur, where there is excellent artificial snow on mostoistes.

At the opposite end of the Alps, in the Dolomites, Selva's snow-making installation is paying similar dividends. On Tuesday I had excellent skiling on two long red runs to the village, and the course for today's World Cup downhill looks in fine

There has been a little snow in some Swiss and Austrian resorts this week, but when I arrive in Val d'isère/Tignes tonight! expect to find the skiing there still confined to the glacier and artificial snow.



Thurso in winter has the best surfing in Europe. Just don't forget your drysuit. By Simon Calder

extends towards its dark conclusion, several dozen fewer degrees of warmth. to catch the ultimate wave. But in terms of surfing, there is not much to choose between them.

From the south, you approach mainland Britain's northernmost town across petrified lowlands: murky, scruffy patches of freeze-dried earth, with all the goodness concentrated into the odd, optimistic patch of cultivation. Many of uneasily uniform housing that hems in the huddle of gaunt municipal granite at the heart of the town. Near the sea, however, manmade structures shrink back from the power of the ocean.

out due north from here you would meet and Orkney, make for some of the first the polar ice cap and second Siberia. heaviest seas in the world. Many of the The anvil-flat north coast of Scotland, graves in the cemetery belong to seaextending horizontally from John O'Groats to Cape Wrath, is exposed to everything the Arctic can burl at it.

The bruised and beautiful shoreline should be the perfect place to experience stormy solitude - but it isn't. At Crosskirk, five miles west of Thurso, the ruins of a chapel and a lonely cemetery This is Surfer's Paradise, UK. As the look out over blackened rocks. So. too, drysuited figure bobbed about in the do the darting eyes of a vanload or two

awaii. Bondi. Thurso. The last is of surfers. A trio of them have come descended from a height of 10 feet or the grey horizon that welds itself to the has a more inspiring coastline Zealand. Shivering with each Arctic and rewards of paddling offshore to try

You would not want to learn the craft hereabouts. To figure out how to stand up on a seven-foot piece of moulded polyurethane foam in rough water, go elsewhere; the British Surfing Association's advice for this whole stretch of coast warns "Experienced surfers only". But once you have cracked the patience-Thurso's 8,000 souls reside in the exhausting business of getting yourself and your surfboard on to a breaker, and felt the thrill of harnessing all that iatent energy, sooner or later you will feel the tug of Europe's best surf.

Low-pressure areas and storms in the If you were to let the tide sweep you Pentland Firth, between the mainland men who perished on the rocky North Shore, but the same brute force of water attracts tourists by the Transitload. A flash of fibre-glass erupts from the sea and creates a miraculous vortex as it accelerates for a high-velocity ride along the crest of a devilish wave.

the odd one out, and not just from Edimburgh, 300 miles south; a more above the surrounding water. I steely waters is white, and obvious: because it fails to end in an "i", adventurous couple have traversed the realised that surfing must be the one Dounreay nuclear power station was Thurso is a little easier to reach globe and are diametrically opposite sport where understatement, not exag-from most places in Britain; it their home in the South Island of New geration, prevails.

in the lengthening nights as the year bluster, they gauge the potential risks as intimately as do the fishermen setting a far uglier manifestation of energy than around the bay from Thurso. A crucial distinction is between waves whipped up some, has become a nightmare of the by northern gales, and the swell generated from within the brooding sea. A "glassy" surface, undistorted by the their ow wind, is ideal; but with Iceland and Nor-nature. way being closer neighbours than London, the shrewd surfer realises the risks of sudden changes of conditions.

If you are not attracted by the idea of tackling the elements head-on, then discovering Britain's finest beaches may appeal. The square chin of a shoreline that juts out from Scotland turns out to be pocked by crescent-shaped bays. Many of these do not possess the appropriate ground profile to create great surf. so they remain blissfully empty throughout the winter - and, say the locals, most of the summer, too.

Unlike other seas at this latitude, the North Atlantic drift means the water never freezes. That explains why the dead-end fishing port of Reay boasts a harbour that looks a sight more sturdy than any of the frail cottages around it, and beyond it a sheen of sands that warm with every darkening degree of adrenalin afterglow, having just the sinking afternoon sun. The blot on that really counts is "extreme".

located here to take advantage of the isolation, but the huge blank globe in The surfer needs to know the water which the isotopes regenerate comprise century dream of the future that for present. Northern Scotland is littered with evidence of men overestimating their own powers and underestimating

> Back through the gloom to Thurso, in search of après-surf. The digital component of Hawaii Five-O signifies it was the 50th state to become United. At Thurso, Five-O is more likely to be the score by which the local team lose against Buckie Thistle. The only kind of surf culture you're likely to find here emanates from one of the baronial halls that administered to a united serf-dom. and the closest most visiting surfers come to a wipe-out is a heavy night at the bar of the Central Hotel.

The local surfing community, for whom the waves represent a better chance of sporting success than does playing for Wick Academy FC, meet the visitors to discuss the foibles of the sea. to talk of faraway shores. Sea. sand, surf and sun - Thurso cannot claim a full house, but at this wildest part of Britain that hardly seems to matter. The word

When to go The surf is at its best in the last three months of the year. Non surfers might enjoy the area more in

How to get there

Simon Calder paid £236 for a return ticket on British Airways (0345 222111) from Heathrow via Edinburgh to Wick, and rented a car from Richards Garage (01955 604123) in Wick for £45 per day. An alternative is to travel by rail via Inverness to Thurso, but public transport along the coast is limited.

Where to stav

Options are limited. Simon Calder paid £25 per night for bed and breakfast at the Royal Hotel, Traill Street, Thurso (01847 893191). A double room costs £30.

Who to ask

Caithness Tourist Board, Whitechapel Road, Wick KW1 4EA (01955 602596). The British Surfing Association is based at Champions Yard, Penzance, Comwall TR18 2SS (01736 60250).

SCOTTISH **DEPARTURES**

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If you have not travelled by lcoach for some time, you may have the impression that National Express buses (0990 808080) between Scotland and England are cheap but slow. Cheap they definitely are, with a norestrictions ticket from main cities in southern Scotland to London for only £25 return. Slow they are not. with the fastest journey under eight hours.

Dail Direct (0800 450450) is Aselling Apex tickets between Glasgow and London on either the East Coast or West Coast main lines for £46 return if you hook a week in advance. The centre-to-centre trip is slightly faster along the East Coast from King's Cross via Edinburgh, but more scenic from Euston.

No flights will operate between Scotland and England on Christmas Day, and some services will be cut for the last week in December and the first week of January, British Airways (0345 222111) will he reducing Super Shuttle services linking Heathrow with Glasgow and Edinburgh. The last northbound flight on Christmas Eve is at 5pm to Edinburgh and 6.15pm to Glasgow, Southbound, the latest services are at 7pm from Edinburgh and 7.15pm from Glasgow. Air UK (0345 666777) is rearranging its schedules from Scotland's two biggest cities to Stansted, cutting some services but adding others between 23 and 29 December.

Ski clinics are scheduled every weekend for a month from 10 February at Caimgorm. For £130, you get two days of skiing, accommodation and full board, plus the chance to watch all your mistakes on video. The courses are organised by John Arnold Skiing of Edinburgh (0131-



For anyone with an aversion to prolonged daylight. winter mountaineering courses in Scotland are organised by Himalayan Kingdoms (0114-276 3322). The company runs trips to other non-Himalayan places, such as North America's highest mountain Denali (formerly Mount McKinley) in the state of Alaska. It one of the most dangerous peaks in the world because of the low temperatures and often severe weather. Participants in the expedition organised next May can expect constant daylight. The cost of the ascent to 20,321 feet

What a welcome! A little town, whose grey houses keep their backs to the sea



18

ben you round the Hammerhead Peninsula on the approach from Belfast, Stranraer greets you with barely a murmur. Cosy in the shelter of Loch Ryan, the town huddles beneath low hills. Strangaer is at the end of the A77, the road to almost nowhere, and is all the finer for its isolation.

As you approach the quayside, not a single surprise greets you: the awkward concrete ugliness of the jetties lead the eye up to austerely grey houses and shops that keep their backs to the sea. Trucks arriving from Larne and motorists from Belfast are diverted around the town, and miss out on its modest attractions.

The chief civic asset is the Castle of St. John, possibly the smallest you will ever see. It is more like a turret rising molar-like from the middle of functional money (the Wigtown to be rejuvenated with a boat- down Dover Harbour and such minimalism?

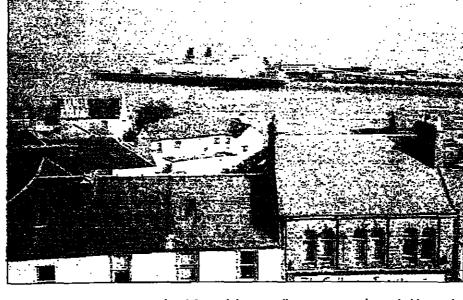
of the port. The ferry business began only in 1872; for cenhere. Cattle were raised on the hillsides around Stranmiles south to the market in Norwich. The Adairs of Kinhilt, the

local squires, built the first couple of the castle's storeys in 1510 to make their mark on the town. A century later, it was requisitioned and enlarged by government troops, yourself on the scruffy patch in order to subdue the early radical movement known as the Covenanters. Finally, the council took control and turned it into the local jail, Princess Victoria sank in the and topping it out with a tiny exercise yard. There was ebrates 400 years of being a barely room to do much more than carve your initials in the of scrubland are the benefiruddy sandstone, as one conciary of £546,980 of Millen-council funds, the seafront is the Heathrow area. knock restrict our restructuring to

a tree its layers tell the history name of Prisoner Walls did in

From the top you can surturies before that, agriculture vey the Royal Burgh and plan was the way to scrape a living a tour around its modest monuments, perhaps ending up at the George Hotel for raer, then driven hundreds of lunch. Thistle, shamrock and rose emblems welcome those from Scotland, Ireland and England; the Welsh leek has apparently been sprung.

If you wander down to the seafront to watch the ferries drift back and forth from Ireland, you will probably find of grass known as Agnew Park. The only structure of interest is the memorial to those who died when the ferry building a couple more floors year Elizabeth II was crowned. But as the town cel-Royal Burgh, these five acres



Free Press and Strantaer Advertiser is quite specific about the amount). In Whisky Galore!, municipal windfall was alcohol; in 1995, the origin is gambling, with the National Lottery contributing. With have to do is clean up the devanother £750,000 or so of astating unattractiveness of

ing lake, miniature railway start again, and tidy up the and café. A commendable civic project, creating a passengers as soon as they the source of the sudden brighter welcome to the tiny proportion of foreign visitors who reach these shores by the northerly route. Now all we

squalor that greets Eurostar emerge from Waterloo station.

The Millennium has come to Stranraer - but will anyone come to Britain if we have the poverty of imagination to

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Strangaer's ferry business began only in 1872. Before

that farming was the only

way to scrape together a meagre living. Photograph: Simon Calder

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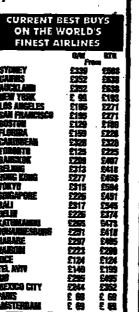
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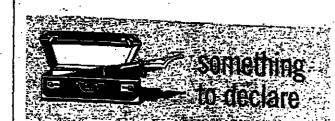
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Trouble spots

This week's advice from our man in the Foreign Office

Serbia and Montenegro: There has been some

reduction in tension in the border areas with Bosnia and Croatia; however, tension could increase again at short notice and visitors are advised to avoid these border areas. All visitors should register with the British Embassy in Belgrade (011 645 055) on arrival."

Tanzania: "If approached by policemen asking for money for alleged offences, insist on identification before going to a police station to

Foreign Office travel advice is available on 0171-270 4129: on BBC-2 Cecfax, page 564 onwards; and on the Internet at http://www.fco.gov.uk/

make any payments. Report

"Incidents of rioting, looting

and shooting occur without

There is also a serious risk

of armed attacks and sexual

warning in major towns.

all incidents to the British

High Commission."

Papua New Guinea:

Bargain of the week

For the next four weeks, Estonian Air (01293 534735) has a half-price spouse fare between Gatwick and Tallinn, reducing the cost per person to £214.

Location Hunters

Arecibo Observatory, Puerto Rico

Then suddenly we are the surface 4,000ft below. An The world's largest radio dish refusing to look down. is being used for nefarious purposes and Bond does his with a team doing a 150best to sabotage it. The storyline is engagingly zany but the location is real, right down to the structures from which over the tropical vegetation Bond dangles.

miles west of the capital, San pulsar theme composed by Juan, along Puerto Rico's Johnny Dankworth accomnorth coast. Arecibo Observatory is eight miles inland, in . a round sinkhole in the limestone landscape. Some 30 Frank Drake, the observayears ago scientists from Cor- tory's director for many years, nell strung out, in this natural Mark 1 telescope. The pan-voked a transatlantic row when elling on which the Goldeneye he transmitted earthly greetvears later.

Unlike the Jodrell telescope, Arecibo doesn't swivel. rash and presumptuous act.
The Earth's spin sweeps its. How did Drake know they view around the sky. The dish focuses cosmic radio waves to antennae on a rotating girder slung high above the dish. This structure, and the cable car and catwalk used to reach

it, make Bond's playground. In real life, Arecibo Observatory looks even grander.

n Goldeneye, James Bond The awful thing about the cattakes us sightseeing in St walk is seeing right through the Petersburg by battle tank. aluminium slats at your feet, to plunged into Puerto Rico. old photo shows me up there,

It was 1969 and I was there physics for the BBC. We started with a helicopter track until the radio telescope The port of Arecibo is 40 appeared magnificently. A panied the shot.

Arecibo led the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. masterminded the quest. He hollow, a bowl-shaped radio calculated that alien beings mesh four times wider than might also have an extraterthe famous Jodreli Bank restrial Arecibo. Drake pro-Hercules in 1974. Martin Ryle of Cambridge considered it a were good guys out there? The Americans thought Ryle

had seen too many movies. Arecibo Observatory has 40,000 visitors pa. It will open a Visitor and Educational Facility in Oct 1996

Nigel Calder



Nigel Calder at Arecibo in 1969

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Dark mountains rise gloomily upwards. No wonder Captain Cook named the islands New Caledonia



landscape around Nouméa, the capital, is of the Isle of

By Malcolm Senior

but with the pretensions of Paris, New Caledonia's capital, Nouméa, is one of the South Pacific's more intriguing destinations. Far less well-known than Tahiti, New Caledonia is a jumbled-up place, at times the height of chic European modernity, at others untouched, raw, South Pacific - well ... paradise. Nouméa itself, is a queer fish. A place so colonial that at times

ernist joke. On the tourist side, troubles a decade ago. spic and span box hotels perch on prime land on well-kept roads with cleaned beaches. The Ibis on the Baie des Citrons has a wonderful spot shaded by the trees and a stumble away from the breakfast table to a day doing battle with the tanning lotion and keeping up to date with the latest in Paris Match. This is the life of the metros - the breed of French incomers who arrive in Nouméa on short-term

highly paid contracts. Nouméa neatly divides into areas where the metros live and play and where they don't. The bus station and the streets around it are decidedly metro-free. As I waited for my bus to the northeast, I was a novelty, even more so on the bus itself. Clearly, white people don't take buses.

Heading north-eastwards, the bus passes through a haunting landscape where steep, dark mountains rise gloomily upwards like the Cuillins of Skye. No won-

ith the bustle of a islands New Caledonia. The bus provincial French city, wove its way over various cols before dropping down to Bourail, where the road narrows, climbs out of the valley and heads towards the sea. The east coast is wilder, the ocean rougher and the villages are a mix of traditional round huts and modern government buildings. Between the villages are scrubland and pasture once used by the Caldoche farmers for grazing cattle. Now their only traces are the dilapidated and burnt-out farmsteads, deserted

Poindimie is a quiet, tranquil spot now, where everyone from schoolkids to drivers says "hello". It is a great place to gather your thoughts after the confusion of Nouméa. Poindimie feels like a Pacific village. Its football club has modern changing-rooms but a traditional hut at one end of the games field - and away supporters would be advised not to stand at the ocean end on a windy day in case they're hit by coconuts.

However, the real jewels of New Caledonia are not on the Grande Isle but on the islands around it. Air Caledonie flies a relentless sequence of short hops to the Isles des Loyautes and the Isle des Pins. Part of the fun is negotiating the genial chaos of Nouméa's other airport, Magenta. Here people mill around a small hall with hardboard check-ins, surrounded by huge packages, crates of beer and ancient relatives. Best of all,

When to go

The climate in New Caledonia is benign throughout the year. warmest in December and February (37C) and coolest in August (290). Rainfall and humidity is lowest between

How to get there

Probably the best way to reach the capital, Nouméa, is as part of a journey to or from New Zealand on Air New Zealand. The airline allows a stop in Nouméa on many discounted tickets bought through specialist agents. Fares are lowest between March and June, with prices typically around £800 for a round-trip to Auckland or a round-the-world ticket. Alternatively, Air France has flights via Paris to Nouméa.

What to read

New Caledonia: a Travel Survival Kit (Lonely Planet, second edition, £8.95).

TV monitor is retuned so that everyone can watch the news. Lifou, one of the three Loyaute islands, has little sign of any white influence in recent years, though scratch the surface and you discover that it's the British rather than French that did the proselytising in these parts. Its pride and joy is Luengoni beach - an



white sand and the clearest of southernmost edge of the Grande water, While you splash around in Isle, is still a sublime spot, despite he sumrised if benign leathery shapes paddle speedily in the other direction. Turdes like Luengoni, too.

If you're really lucky, you get to stay at the Gite Neibash, named after a local band. This is a beachbum heaven, a place where you can climb out of bed and 20 seconds later thrash about in the sea. Neibash is run by Edouard Forrest, and he cooks all your meals and goes and gets the fish from the chap at the top end of

Edouard and his wife, Beatrice, will drive you around the island, or hire you a car and so on. Beatrice took me and a French family down to a cavern lit by candles and pocket torches. After a few minutes, the way opened up to reveal a large chamber with a pool of freshwater so still it had a mesmerising mirror quality.

The coral that makes up the cavern has also built up into stubby cliffs. These cliffs give you a good vantage point to look at der Captain Cook named the in the evening the departures absurd cliché, with spotless soft the extensive reef surrounding

New Caledonia. Thanks to the clear water you can watch the fish, too, especially the sharks casing their way languidly between the sharp boulders of coral, their black dorsal fins breaking the water. At the flick of a tail, a shark would squeeze through a small gap, and at that moment every other fish would belt for cover.

Having had our fill of shark watching, we moved further afield. The Isle des Pins, at the signs of encroaching tourist exploitation. Here the gites are bigger and more expensive. The advantage is that there are more organised trips such as a day on a pirogue sailing canoe. These wonderful, silent boats speed through the water at the slightest breath of wind. At lunchtime the boat lands and a track heads through the trees to the Baie d'Oro, a surreal spot. At high tide the bay floods, then the ocean recedes behind the reef, creating a natural pool full of fish trapped until the tide returns. Sunken into the sides are rock pools filled with sea anemones disconcertingly coloured like the plastic flowers in a tropical tank.

At dusk the sun sets, colouring the palm trees gold and red, with the clouds lighting and re-lighting the beach in different patterns. The sound is of the surf on the sand. broken only by the clap of stingrays leaping out of the water, then diving back into the dark. A far cry from the Isle of Skye, whatever Captain Cook might have thought.

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All of us, surely, are firmly in Havour of facilities being provided for less able travellers. For example, it seems entirely reasonable that airline passengers who are unable to walk long distances should be provided with wheelchair assisgage should get a discount,

tance. Sandra Leventon of Lancashire writes with alarm about the policy adopted by Ryanair, which flies between and within Britain and Ireland. She is not disabled, but says: " Ryanair charges £12 for the use or carriage of wheelchairs. Am I alone in not wanting to patronise a firm which does this? I appreciate news of travel bargains which allow me to visit Ireland more often, but I also want to be an ethical trav-

As these pages have men-

eller."

tioned frequently, Ryanair has some of the lowest fares in Europe. With fares such as £49 hetween Britain and Dublin, margins are pared to the bone. So unlike other carriers, the airline passes on the charge levied by ground handlers at airports. Two possible solutions: Ryanair could re-negotiate its contract with the handlers so that wheelchair users do not constitute an additional expense, or the airline could take the policy of pricing its fares according to the costs incurred to its logical conclusion. So heavier passengers would pay more and passengers carrying only hand bag-



SIMON **CALDER**

While Ryanair ponders these suggestions, Ms Leventon may wish to know that Aer Lingus. British Airways Express,

flying to Dublin that do not charge extra for wheelchairs.

He corrects my story about Chisinau, the capital of after its annexation by Stalin...

British Midland and Virgin Furthermore, the distinction Atlantic are among the airlines between Moldavia and Moldova does not exist in the Romanian language."
The earlier gaffe, Mr Mar-

"This is your second serious rone adds, was to describe gaffe in one year," writes President Kennedy as former John Marrone from Vienna. governor of Massachusetts: he was, in fact, senator for the state. Mr Marrone's letter, Moldova: "Soviet Moldova like all comments and critiwas founded in 1940 soon cisms about these pages, is

And another thing: Alan Magnus writes from London to take issue with my appraisal of Chisinau as forlorn and morose. The main thoroughfare, Boulevard Stefan cel Mare, is a fine, wide avenue ... there are a number of fine buildings including an opera house that would not disgrace London." (Would that Covent Garden had tick-

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Hitchcock would have killed for such an atmosphere. The only life we saw was feral cats chilling or what?

Robert Richardson has the place to himself in Nova Scotia

alking to people in the knew Canada, but Nova Scotia appeared as familiar as you near the scene of The Disdowntown Whitehaven. And the figures prove it; out of more whole book but an outline will than a million recorded tourists suffice. to the province in 1994, a mere 7,500 flew in from the UK.

Clipped like a giant number seven on the edge of New Brunswick, with Cape Breton island sprawling to the north-east, Nova Scotia is well worth discovering. It is spacious - some 900,000 people in a land mass half the size of England – jewelled by silver and cobalt lakes, drenched with trees and edged by a wondrous coastline. Halifax, its clean, compact capital (now boasting a casino) has the world's second largest natural harbour. No river flows into it, but the Atlantic surges in between two peninsulas that pinch it to the width of a short ferry crossing. It is fascinating by day, magnificent by night.

weeks before we left. I trip, good value at \$16 each, but began to feel we were about to take a holiday in Terra Incognita. Everyone dodge the tourist trap shop by the landing stage; you can get things more cheaply within a short walk. The boat first takes

In December 1917, the Mont Blanc, a French munitions ship. collided with a Norwegian vessel in The Narrows and 2,500 tons of high explosives erupted into death and statistics in the biggest man-made explosion before Los Alamos. The Mont Blanc's five-ton anchor landed two and a half miles away, a square mile of Halifax was obliterated, more than 2,000 people died, 1,600 buildings were destroyed and 12,000 damaged, and church bells all over the province were set clanging by a blast that hurled a 12,000ft column of water and smoke into the air. Hours later, the captain of



reached them.

History and prosperity now line the waterfront. The city that birch, aspen, ash and hornbeam was rebuilt immediately after the are among the hardwoods mixed

We regarded one of the two graceful suspension bridges spanning the harbour with caution. It was cursed by the local Micmac Indian chief when his daughter used it to meet her English soldier lover on the other side. It although frequently vicious winwould fall three times, he threatened, once in storm, once in silence and once in death. A. storm duly wrecked the first bridge and its replacement silently and inexplicably collapsed in the night; when they opened the third version, they prudently asked the chief's descendant to lift the curse.

Travelling out of Halifax you are almost overwhelmed by trees. a ship 60 miles out in the There are more trees in Nova fact they don't even class as hamAtlantic thought he'd struck a Scotia than you can shake a stick lets, just handfuls of houses that It's not marked on the maps, but

We took a two-hour harbour mine when the tidal wave at, but, unlike Old Scotland, you are not endlessly confronted by conifers. Red and sugar maple,

> explosion is preserved in what are called the Historic Properties, handsome older buildings visible between well-proportioned modern office blocks. brick house is only a decoration over the standard clapboard or shingle wooden structure, painted in soft greens, blues and whites, all impeccably clean. With ters and a comparatively short growing season restrict the choice

of shrubs and perennials. The spot everyone has to see is Peggy's Cove, 25 miles west of Halifax, It was shrouded in sea mist the day we went, romantic and faintly eerie, but there was not much of a view.

On the map, there appears to be an endless chain of villages running alongside the sea; in

have been given a name. Bayswater, where we enjoyed a splendid barbecue, bears no resemblance whatever to its noisome London counterpart,

You collect more mental snap-

shots than can be photographed.
South of Peggy's Cove, The
Ovens are well worth a visit. These dramatic caves are carved deep into dark shale rocks which you can view from the sea in what appears from the safety of land to be a very small boat. Stop on the way at Lunenburg, with its bright houses and glittering air. Wolfville, near the west coast, is an elegant university town, a good base from which to explore the coastline around the Bay of Fundy. Here the world's highest tides rise and fall more than 40 feet as 3,000 miles of Atlantic muscle force water into the narrowing Minas Basin.

Best of all, we thought, was a place the brochures don't mention, Fisherman's Reserve is near Halifax, a few miles along the

watch for the sign down to a lonely group of silent, decaying wooden huts and an atmosphere Hitchcock would have killed for. The only life we saw was feral

cats, chilling or what? Grand Pré, near Wolfville, is a must for visitors. Here there is a national history park and memo-rial to the Acadian French who were ruthlessly driven out by the English during the colonial strug-gle for Canada. Their expulsion led to the legend of Evangeline, whose husband Gabriel was among the menfolk ordered out on the day they married. She spent the rest of her life wandering in search of him until (this is legend, after all) she finally found him years later on his deathbed and promptly died herself.

For the moment you'll find you have the place more or less to yourself. But the trick may be to get to Nova Scotia before everyone else does, book now for a late spring or summer visit as the province is poised to sell itself to

Pretty but practical: Peggy's Cove, about 25 miles west of Halifax Photograph: Robert Harding



Nova Scotia is at its best between May and September. Book now for spring and summer

How to get there

The only alrline with regular services between the UK and Nova Scotia is Air Canada (0990 247226), which operates five flights each week between Heathrow and Halifax. The fares are relatively high given the short distance, and are currently around £350 including tax.

How to get around

Public transport is poor, with only one train or a couple of buses linking the main towns and cities. Most visitors end up hiring a car, which can be done in advance with the leading multinational car rental companies.

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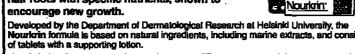
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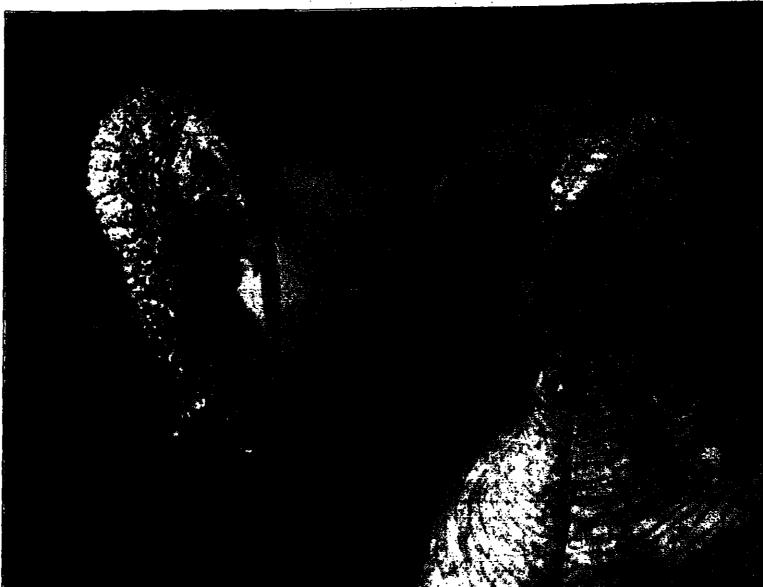
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The whites have had it. Better these days to be a red, a blue, a bronze or a black

Jenny McClean visits a rare turkey farm



Roberts with a

domestic fowl, come back as a turkey. A handsome buff perhaps or possibly a blue. Or even an exotic looking crimson dawn. But not a bronze or black, and definitely not a white. You will see why in a

Not that there is anything wrong with your common or garden white. After all, unlike most chickens, a turkey of whatever persuasion is spared a bleak battery existence. But the lifestyle of the white does reveal one big drawback: most of them get eaten at Christmas.

One reason is that white turkeys are broad-breasted and meaty, the hens weighing 14-16lbs and the males, or stags, anything up to an oven-crushing 40lbs. Buffs and crimson dawns, along with slates, lavenders and Nebraskans, to name a few, are long-breasted, skinnier and therefore less commercial. How can you provide turkey sandwiches into the New Year with something that tips the scales at a mere 10-16lbs? --

But the main reason for the proliferation, up to now, of white turkeys at the expense of more noisy than peacocks." colourful souls is cosmetic. A few white feathers left on the carcass after plucking hardly show, and are therefore less likely to upset that pernickety scapegoat, The Housewife.

"Not many people know you can get red and blue turkeys, but public awareness is growing," says Michael Roberts, founder and owner of the Domestic Fowl Trust near Evesham in Worcestershire. "There is a terrific trend now towards bronze turkeys and, to a lesser extent, black, which are harder to find."

Why? Do they taste different? Not according to Mr Roberts who keeps up to half the 13 recognised turkey types (which are all descended from the Mexican wild turkey) among his 160 minority breeds of fowl. He thinks the vogue

take a tip: if you have to come back as a towards tinted turkeys is linked more to the birds visual appeal, even though those dining off it will be unaware of its plumage.

"Some people claim they can detect a difference in taste between white and the various coloured turkeys but I'm sceptical," says Michael Roberts. "The different parts of a bird, such as the breast and legs, have their own flavours anyway. Difference in taste between birds is much more down to how they have been reared and cooked." Not surprisingly he finds free-range turkeys the most delicious, whatever their hue, and believes battery farming could be banned without detriment to the industry.

According to Mr Roberts, who founded the trust 20 years ago to save the old, pure breeds are of Mediterranean origin." of chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese, more and more people are after bronze and black turkeys for the Christmas table. Pied, lavender and black-wing breeds are unlikely to be bred for food. "They mainly go to farm parks. Or privately. Turkeys make great pets, they don't need a much bigger area than chickens and are less

What about their alleged gobbling sound? "Yes, they do gobble, at least the males do. The females have a wider vocabulary. Altogether domestic fowl, although I have had some that are very quiet indeed.

Because of the noise, and their flock instincts, turkeys also make good house guards. But foxes still manage to get at them, mauling them in situ because they are too heavy to be carted off. A light female might be able to fly away but a hefty male cannot even get off the ground. Sometimes the daft birds will come down off their perch to

inspect the fox.
"They have a strong mischievous streak and can be infuriating but they make very good

mothers because they will sit," Mr Roberts says. They are prolific layers, producing 100 eggs or more in their first year. Unlike chickens' eggs they are all the same colour - white with brown flecks. They are also harder shelled, larger and more pointed. Unwanted male chicks are killed at a day old for owl and hawk food. Unwanted

male adults are eaten by the trust's six staff. Perversely, while black turkeys are sought after he finds black chickens impossible to sell in Britain. "Everyone wants brown or speckled, and something that lays brown eggs. Black hens tend to lay white eggs. On the Continent and in America, on the other hand, they think brown eggs are dirty, so you'll find that most black hens

The Domestic Fowl Trust is a muddy place, requiring the wearing of wellies in all conditions short of drought. The birds are kept in low wire-fenced pens and while many of his breeds of poultry do not wander if well-fed, some are -not-averse to visiting each other, a social event I witnessed and which was signalled by pandemonium breaking out.

Michael Roberts has been fond of fowl since childhood. "Silkies, from China, were my favourite," he says. "Marco Polo, the first turkeys have the most noticeable range of all the European to see them, described them as the only chickens he had ever seen with wool on their backs. I came to turkeys later and now I have rather got a soft spot for them."

He plans to include turkeys on his visits to Russia where he acts as adviser to the St Petersburg Poultry Club, an organisation he helped set up last year (1994) to restock the country with the breeds of domestic fowl that had been dismissed as non-commercial by the collective farms. Although he has exported chicken eggs to collectors in Japan, Africa, America, Canada and Scandinavia, turkeys are less popular abroad than they are here. "The further east you go the less you see them. In Poland, for instance, they are much more used to eating geese."

The trust could be a registered charity but has opted for independence. Income is generated mainly by the sale of eight commercial breeds, although of the total 20,000 eggs, chicks and adult fowl he sold last year, over a third were rare breeds and interest is growing.

"Bantams and miniature breeds are always in demand," he says. "It's surprising how many we sell to Londoners. But recently we have had a lot of people who have moved into the country and found themselves with a large garden or orchard that they want to fill with larger fowl. Our other main group of customers is the old country set who have always kept a certain breed.

"We grill new customers fairly well so that they get the birds that are best for them and know how to look after then. The main questions are, 'How many eggs do you want?' and 'How fox-proof are you?' But it is quite possible to keep, say, four turkeys in a garden shed with straw and a good sized perch."

If you buy eggs or chicks now you can grow your own Christmas lunch for '96. But for those still in need of a bird now, a better bet is the Traditional Farm Fresh Turkey Association, a marketing organisation for 35 producers sup-

plying turkeys reared to a strict code.
"We don't supply supermarkets," explained a spokeswoman, "only independent butchers. Our birds are free-range and although we don't claim they are organic, many of them are."
You can tell an association bird by the gold

triangle it sports, indicating that it has been dry-plucked and hung. The more commonly wet-plucked birds cannot be hung because their keeping quality is reduced. And hung birds, claims the association, taste better.

The association can supply a list of producers, a recipe leaflet and a copy of their code, but the simplest thing is to phone a few butchers. Another useful source of festive food information is the Soil Association's organic Christmas

list featuring turkeys, among other goodies. Not necessarily organic or free-range, the Farm Retail Association's "Harvest Times" booklet is a useful guide, not just to turkey sup-

pliers but to farm shops generally. And what will Trust staff be eating at their Christmas office lunch? "A pied turkey and a Muscovy drake. They taste very nice and I've got too many of them floating around."

> The Domestic Four Trust, Honeybourne Pastures, Honeybourne, Evesham, Worcestershire WRII 5QJ (01386 833083).

Starting from scratch: turkey chicks cost £2-£4, poults (aged 4-12 weeks) cost: £3-£6. Feed and bedding for founturkeys with cost you about £60 a year. Buy the young June-August to fatten for Christmas.

The Poultry Club of Great Britain (01205 724081) advises its members on care and conservation and has details of local shows.

The Traditional Farm Fresh Turkeys Association (01323 899802).

The Soil Association, 86 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BB (0117 929 0661). For its Organic Christmas List send £2.50+50p p&p.

Write to The Farm Retail Association, PO Box 200, Winchester SO23 8XJ for a directory of good farm shops selling meat.

Searching for Stanley Baxter: how could one of Britain's funniest men just disappear? Cole Moreton hunts a master of disguise

Finding the very best Christmas cake in the world: Michael Bateman on absolutely the ultimate in seasonal indulgences

Plus: Helen Fielding goes Colombian, and John Carlin goes to Costa Rica

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Should tax payers shell out to foster an increase in birds that are no longer threatened?

or most people, a wild goose chase is a futile quest; but on the Hebridean island of Tiree a real pursuit is about to start, as crofters and farmers, driven to distraction by the number of geese feeding on their fields in winter, appoint a Goose Offi-

cer to shoot some of the ever-increas-ing population of greylag geese. In the first half of this century the greylag was only an occasional visi-tor to Tiree. Then in the 1970s the birds began to nest on the island in substantial numbers. Now there are between 800 and 1,000 of them resident in summer, and in winter their numbers are swollen to 1,500 or so by migrants from the far north.

Over the past few years they have done such damage to crops that local people formed a management committee, with advisors from Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the aim being to maintain a sustainable population by culling some birds in winter, and scaring off

some of the others in summer. To me, this is an entirely sensible plan: the greylag is a quarry species, and there is no reason why a moderate number should not be shot, provided the cull is done expertly. Meanwhile, however, on the larger island of Islay, to the south of Tiree, a crisis is building up simply because no culling can be done.

There the dominant geese are the Greenland Barnacle and the Greenland Whitefront, both fully protected in Scotland. The Islay migrants represent between a half and two-thirds of the world population of the two sub-species, which at one stage were considered to have become endangered.

Both species nest in the Arctic

and come south for the winter. Islay attracts them particularly because, lying in the Gulf Stream, it has a moderate winter climate, and the grass (on which the geese mainly feed) continues to grow

throughout the year. Most of the island belongs to four large estates, and in the past the owners or their factors (agents) used to meet every year to decide what the annual cull should be. This kept the goose population to a reasonable level; but since a ban was imposed on shooting, numbers have risen to a barely tolerable pitch.

The highest tally last year was 40,000 birds, but the first full count this winter has already shown a total of 43,000, made up of 29,000 Greenland Barnacle and 13,000 Greenland Whitefront. Scottish Natural · Heritage employs a full-time Goose Project Officer, Ross Lilley, who in turn brings in a dozen other counters, operating with binoculars, telescopes and clicker-counters from four-wheel drive vehicles, to help him assess numbers.

At present farmers are paid £9.50 per head per annum to entertain geese on their land, but they claim that the money is nothing like enough to compensate them for the losses they are suffering. The 4,000acre RSPB reserve at Gruinard, in the north-west of the island, relieves pressure to some extend, but the huge flocks, 500 or even 1,000 strong, often prefer to feed elsewhere - especially on the lush pastures of Craigens Farm, next door. where the tenant, Tony Archibald, has to manage his excellent dairy

herd "round the geese". Almost everybody has had to cut down substantially on numbers of sheep and cattle, such is the grazing competition. Farmers now find it impossible to plant cereal crops in autumn, since the emerging shoots are immediately eaten off and killed.

Nor is it only farmers who are worried. Mr Lilley himself acknowledges that "there is concern all round, not least in Scottish Natural Heritage". One fear is that sheer overcrowding and the pollution of the fields by droppings, will bring on some form of epidemic. Desperate remedies are being mentioned - for instance that people should be sent to the Arctic breeding grounds to prick thousands of eggs,

so that they never hatch. Can it make sense that taxpayers should shell out nearly half a million pounds a year to foster the increase in numbers of birds which are no longer threatened? The Islay farmers are in little doubt that this is conservation gone mad - and nobody.can say what will happen next spring, when the current agree-ment with Scottish Natural Heritage is due to end.

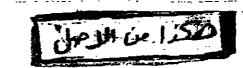
Scottish Natural Heritage has hinted that the rate of compensation must be brought down; the island's farmers insist that it must go up. There is every indication that, come April, something will have to give.

A little local trouble

A weekly round-up of rural rumpuses

Vorkshire Dales National Park has withdrawn its support for a 200-mile bridle and cycleway across the Pennines. Park authorities say that the Countryside Commission has gone back on assurances that the bridleway's route through the Dales would be negotiated with them. They say the Commission is now refusing to negotiate changes to the route, and have ceased work on their part of the route in retaliation. The Park believes that the trail could use existing rights of way rather than spending £1m on a new route between Settle and Mallerstang. Without National Park support there will be a 25mile gap in the bridleway's 200mile route between Matlock and Kirkby Stephen.

he only oyster farm in Wales is to close. Carew Oyster Farm in Pembrokeshire was set up 16 years ago by Joe Folder and his wife, June. Mr Folder, 56, blames the closure on fewer people eating oysters and not enough government subsidies. We've been having a very difficult time for a number of years. We cannot produce at the same cost as our subsidised neighbours." He said oyster farming was flourishing in Ireland, helped along by subsidies, which in Britain were virtually nil. Last month's Budget, which stopped a number of grants previously available, was the last straw. Mr Folder hopes to develop the couples' naturist camp site



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road test

Volkswagen Sharan 20GE



of the way first Even VW has come close to saying it is a mistake. I don't agree. Once I had overcome the monikers found myself warming to this beast precisely. because it had a friendly name. You may like oradmire your 325 or -Mondea, but it is difficult: to put them on a par with the family pet. You can with a Sharan.

So is she a cat or a dog? That depends on what you. are expecting. I have driven an old model Espace for the last three years, and have come to enjoy the commanding driving position and extraordinary flexibility of the "people carrier". I read with bafflement attempts by VW and Ford (who self the Sharan's twin sister, the Galexy) to claim that this was not really a people carrier at all, and that it would drive just like a real car, honest I have never found that the Espace, drove like anything else, so I was not surprised that the Sharan was as easy to drive as any ground hugger.

was how similar Sharan felt to my elderly Espace. Fewer rattles, certainly. and a slightly more solid feel (it is made of steel. plastic). It also had stiffer would horristy.

was happy enough with it.

I was less happy that two
of my innor Espace
bugbears have not been
sorted 10 years after the
French car's launch. First,
anything you put on the
massive dashboard whitzes,
across it inhindered (an
anti-dip surface would do
wonders). Second, it is true wonders). Second, it is true that up to seven seats can be arranged in astonishing combinations - but only if you wrestle with the primitive and frustrating

fixing mechanism. But in general I would be content driving a Sharas, It is a competent, flexible people carrier, with a good level of equipment and an adequate two litre 115 bhp engine, which is particularly smooth at speed. The instruments are

clear, and it has a sophisticated electronic hearing/cooling system and

masses of extras.

Why buy a Sharan rather than a Galaxy? I drove a 2.8 litre V6 Galaxy for comparison, and can tell you that the extra power which actually comes from a VW engine - transforms the car into an effortlessly surging beast that is run to drive. But Ford versus VW? The Galaxy is cheaper model for model but, VW claims, the Sharan. more than makes up for this with better equipment. The VW has a slightly classier feel - the radio looks more sophisticated, for example, although in my view Ford's columnmounted sound controls compensate for this in bags. In the end your decision should probably be made on the relative proximity/helpfulness of your VW/Ford dealer, Butdon't be worried about switching from, 589: a Volvo estate: people 9 carriers are a more than satisfactory alternative to a "real car".

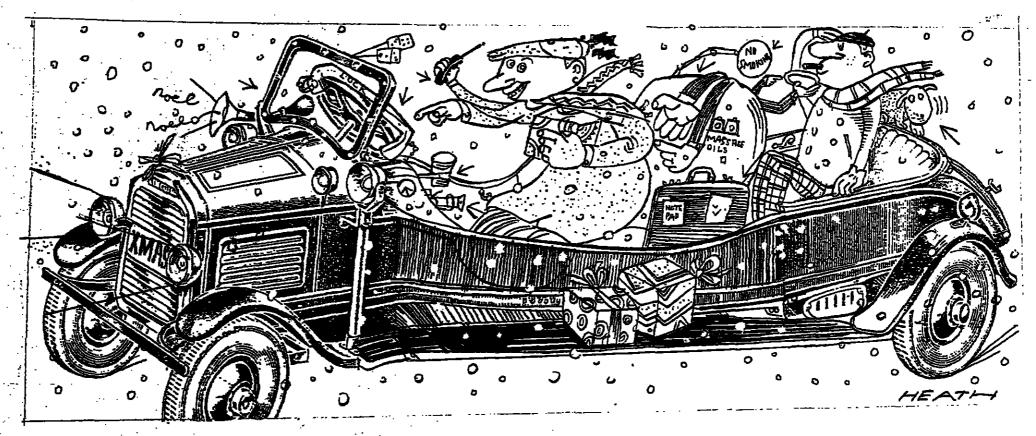
David Bowen

Specifications

Engine: 1984cc, four cylinders, 8 valves. 115bhp. Manual: five speed gearbox. Top speed 110mph. 0-60mph 13.1 seconds, rerage consumption

There must be more classy car accessories than the Drivers Essential Aromatherapy Air Vent Freshener. Mustn't there?

By Adrian Turpin



o one finds the concept of an Alessi kettle strange. We are used to the idea of a pop art

After all, there's nothing intrinsically soap dish or an art deco CD rack. From the day that Terence Conran published his House Book in 1974, we have opened our doors to Design with a capital D. clapped it by the hand, and invited it to make free with all the paraphernalia of our kitchens and bathrooms. But not of our cars. The car accessory is still either inconspicuously practical or conspicuously tacky. Some - the delightfully named air freshener Eau d'Auto springs to mind - even manage to be both. We spend weeks of our lives on the road each year. Don't drivers deserve something a little more classy?

It could be that we don't actually want - rolling out of the factory laden with mod cons - means we don't need adddiet of tat for so long, we've just lost the do not have to be naff.

wrong with a Fold-Away Drink Holder (Starcase, £5.99). Anything that stops half-open cans of Coke being kicked over the floor sounds like progress. But having the words "fold-away drink holder" stencilled on the front (in case you forget? To enlighten passengers?) does little to endear it and, whether mounted on the dashboard or clipped to the door, the FADH could never be described as elegant. Like the bulk of motoring stocking-fillers, it appears to have been designed by someone who still believes you can have any colour as long as it's black or grey (and ry material as long as it's plastic).

Imagine instead a drinks stand made anything swish. Maybe the modern car of beech wood and aluminum; a chrome waste basket; a replacement lighter that's as casually elegant as the Zippo ons. But maybe, having been offered a in your pocket. Small objects of desire

So why do the gadget-makers presume the world and its mother is a travelling sales rep? I don't want the Car Note Indexer (Starcase, £7.99). I realise that it's actually a "dual information centre" but to me it still looks like a note book cum phone index. I can quite see that its sister product, the Stick-On Notes To Go memo pad (£7.99) might be "ideal for the busy executive who makes phone calls and plans his day whilst in transit". But in the interest of taste and road safety alike, I'd rather not find one at the end of the bed on Christmas morning.

Likewise, the Electronic Lumbar Massage Cushion (Innovations, £17.95), whose "four magnets and series of nodules" deliver a gentle going-over to the lower back. There is a place for everything. And in this case it's not the M40.

At £2.98, the Belcar sticky-back plastic ashtray is admittedly cheap, and it temporarily solves the problem of having to empty out the fitted ones. But it's

harder to see the point of the same company's 10ft extendable cigarette lighter. If passengers want to light up in the back. can't they just ask to pass the lighter? And, on the subject of tobacco. is the

No Smoking Sign Air Freshener (Woolworth's, 99p) really, as its makers claim. such "a pleasant way to ask your passengers to stop smoking"?

The Drivers Essential Aromatherapy

Air Vent Freshener may well let "the ancient art of aromatherapy, refined over the centuries" assist me "with today's driving anxiety and stresses", but at the end of the day isn't it just another smell disperser? (Anyway, Dunlop's latest development, tyres that smell of flowers, sounds far more exciting).

Unlike nodding dogs or furry dice, the above objects can't even be excused on the grounds that they're kitsch. For the average motorist, the only purpose in buying them, is to take some kind of preemptive revenge on car thieves.

That's the Christmas miss list, then. The wish list is somewhat shorter. It's possibly a little greedy to expect the futuristic Traffic Master YQ Navigation System (£149, plus radio airtime) or the Automobile Association's stolen vehicle tracker (£399). For a hundredth of the cost, the AA's blind spot mirrors are exceptional value. Not too festive, though,

Innovations' tiny Car Light Warning is closer to the mark. It buzzes if you leave the lights on. Cheap, too, at £4.95. But weighing up usefulness and fun, I'll lump for the Leading Edge's Voice Memo Key Fob (£19.99), a slickly rendered little gadget, perfect for reminding yourself where you left the car. Or, on second thoughts, just give me an Alessi kettle.

> nnovations (01793 513936); Halfords (0345 626625); Leading Edge (0171-229 3338); Starcase gifts are found in C&A, Debenhams, Littlewoods, Argos & House of Fraser

How to become a master of the (pre-owned) Rolls

By James Ruppert

whership of a Rolls Royce need not be limited to the very rich. You, too, can one provided with the very rich and sneeze of its can own one provided you have around £10,000 to spare. That's surprisingly cheap when you consider that it will buy a hand-built car which just happens to be the best car in the world,

allegedly.
To become a pukka buyer of a preowned (or second hand) Rolls Royce, you need to face up to reality. There rust, the suspension and steering can are cars that handle better, Jaguar has more gadgets; BMW and Mercedes are just as solid. And the Rolls Royce is not a practical day-to-day proposition. Although the price could be the same as a new Fiesta Ghia, running costs will be in a very

different league. Yet the good news is that there are plenty of Rollers to choose from on a £20,000 budget. Silver Spirits up to 10 years old are, in Rolls Royce terms, very affordable. These days the earliest examples of Silver Shadows are not that good to drive. Best opt for a Shadow II, built between 1977 and 1980. This is almost a different car: agile and better

The next generation of saloons was based on the Shadow and called the Silver Spirit, with the longer limousine version named the Silver Spur. Imposing and impressive, it reflected the company's desire to catch up with new technology so that by 1986 fuel injection and ABS brakes were part of the package. A four-speed automatic gearbox made things even smoother from 1991 and a redesigned engine in 1993 combined with adaptive ride suspension and twin airbags brought the models bang up to

However, anyone cautious about might prefer the racier, old money marque that is Bentley. Since 1981 Bentley has been marketed as a distinctive range of models rather than a Roller with a rounded grille and fly-ing B mascot. The Bentley Eight is the basic model with matt finish trim and cloth seats, while the Mulsanne is a clone of the Spirit. Meanwhile, if
Ferrari ever built a four-door tank it
would be just like the Turbo and costs containable and if you shop

There is more to checking over a used Rolls Royce, or Bentley, than kicking the tyres. The process is akin to a grand old family making and the control of t old family making sure that no undesirables are allowed to marry into the fold. There ought to be a file of history

life. Such a reassuring document tells you everything worth knowing from the last brake overhaul, to the latest financial damage for a set of wiper blades. Either buy from a specialist, or get it checked over by one. Rolls Royce and Bentleys are incredibly well built, but do need looking after because old ones will show its age and a new interior could

bankrupt you.

At the Hanwell Car Centre the stock is dominated by Shadows, Spirits and Eighties Bentleys. The Shadow IIs are pitched between £13,000 and £14,000. When I visited, I found it hard to separate the cars by anything except colour preference. Every one had a full service history and was immaculately presented. I suppose the 1978 Caribbean Blue Shadow with cream hide interior was showy enough for me at an attractive £13,950. There were several new shape Spirits with prices starting at just £17,950 for an early 1981 model. Among the Bentleys I spotted a 1986 Mulsanne at a remarkable £19,999, while the most offordable Turbo a 1084 finished in affordable Turbo, a 1984 finished in black, was £21,950. Every example here is serviced before sale and comes with an 18-month parts and labour

warranty.

If you want to take a risk among the private sellers there are lots of temptingly cheap Rollers out there. I rummaged around in the classified ad bargain basement to see what I could come up with. The first was a Shadow II at £4,995, which had been stored for five years and was in need of unspecified attention. Even more remarkable was the Roller's nouveau riche image a 1983 Spirit which had been vandalised, leaving a distraught owner asking £7,995 for it.

Both of them could be a drain on time and finances, but there are companies that can take the pain out of running and repairing a Roller. Legendary dismantlers KLW actually break damaged examples for the precious parts.

> Hanwell Car Centre 0181 567 1777 (pre-owned) KLW 0171 622 8865 (parts)

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money

For those willing to take a long-term nothing to beat buying shares in consistent money-spinners that have the capacity to pay handsome dividends

year for investors that talk of Christmas presents is probably redundant. Anybody who has been fully invested in the stock market this year will have good cause to be pleased cent, have done best of all. It \$750,000 a year by the time of has certainly borne out the wisdom of two old Wall Street ing anything she had earned rules of thumbs: markets in her working life. always do well in years ending in the number five; and they always prosper in years pre-ceding Presidential elections. Who said investing in the stock market was difficult?

Certainly not a remarkable lady called Anne Scheiber, whose exploits in the stock market have just come to light. For those of you who may have missed the story, this is the lady who spent her working life as a tax clerk in the Internal Revenue Service (the American equivalent of took up investing only in her cash now. Her biggest hold-reduced, particularly if you great advantage that comes if

This has been such a good fifties. Armed only with her meagre income, and despite being completely untutored in the finer arts of investment, Miss Scheiber was so successful at investing her modest spinster's mite that when with the outcome, and the lat- she died earlier this year at est interest rate cut - the first the age of 101, she had turned of several to come - will do no her initial savings of \$5,000 harm either. Those who into a fortune worth no less played the US stock market, than \$22m. Her dividend which is up more than 30 per income alone came to

It is a remarkable story from which one can draw several morals. One is the obvious one that so-called experts have no prerogative on wisdom when it comes to investing in the stock market. Common sense and application can take you a long way. In Miss Scheiber's case, her success stemmed from following some simple rules - investing in a limited number of well established companies that have a strong business fran-chise and the ability to genour Inland Revenue) and who erate significant amounts of as big, and the risks are much



ings were in proven cashgenerators such as Coca-Cola and the drugs company Bristol-Meyers Squibb.

A second, related, moral is that it pays to be patient. Putting money into smaller, more speculative companies will often generate bigger returns in the short run, but for those willing to take a long-term view, there is nothing to beat buying shares in consistent money-spinners that have the capacity to pay handsome dividends. The returns over time can be just

the company and what it does. Just as important - and

often neglected - is the simple power of compound interover other ordinary investors was simply that she lived so long. Even doing nothing with your portfolio can make you a lot of money provided you reinvest the income and then hang around long enough to let the power of compounding vork its magic.

A simple example underlines the point. Suppose you have £10,000 in capital, and put it into shares that grow on average by 7 per cent a year and yield 4 per cent - not unreasonable assumptions. Ignoring taxes for a moment, the initial sum will have grown to £50,121 within 10 years, £269,323 in 20 years and £1,372,956 in 30 years – all without you doing anything about it. Even allowing for tax, the cumulative gains on both capital and reinvested income can be enormous.

And there is one other

apparently did not, trade your shares actively. This is that the main tax liability - the tax on the capital gain - does not est. One of the great advan-tages that Miss Scheiber had sum that can compound by sum that can compound by you can draw from the spinnot trading your shares is therefore much greater than if you sold the shares each year and bought different ones. In one year the difference may be small, but over time the benefits of keeping the taxman's hands off your capital can literally run into thousands or even millions of

> Nobody knows exactly how Miss Scheiber planned her investments. She was, by all accounts, a secretive and louely lady whose wealth brought her little happiness one moral which certainly needs no reinforcement. But it is tempting to think that an insight into the importance of tax was at the heart of her remarkable story. Having worked as a tax officer, nobody knew better than her the impact that it can have on your wealth.

At least one commentator

between the methods of Miss Scheiber and those of Warren Buffett, the much more famous professional American investor. All the morals

ster's case are ones to which Mr Buffett himself has drawn attention - and to which he himself subscribes. Buy shares in good companies when they look cheap. Hold them for a long time. Don't overtrade. And do all you can to avoid tax. These are Mr Buffett's methods in a nutshell. They are described at great

length in one of the three books published this year, which I suggest that anyone with a serious interest in investment should consider for a Christmas present. The three titles are quite different in style and content, but all come highly recommended. The three are:

☐ The Warren Buffett Way, by Robert Hagstrom, Jr. John Wiley & Sons. £11.99. An exhaustive summary of everything that the world's most famous investor has said and written about the art of

have personal knowledge of you do not, as Miss Scheiber has noted the similarity investment, complete with detailed explanations of why he bought his most successful shareholdings. Hard going, and not for beginners, but full of good meat:

The Craft of Investing by John Train. Harper Business. John Train is a New York investment counsellor and author, who among other things now writes a regular column for the Financial Times. Light and easy to read, but full of wise words and advice. Particularly good on market cycles and the dangers

of following fashion:

The Schwarz Stock Market Handbook by David Schwartz, Burleigh Publishing, £17.95, Call 01453-731173 for information. A fuscinating account of historical trends in the UK and US stock markets, showing how shares have performed in each month of the year. Academics and effi-cient market theorists may be sniffy about the value of such historical evidence, but then who would ever believe that the rule about Wall Street and years ending in five would keep coming up?

Car warranties off the peg

Private motorists can now buy separate cover. By Clifford German

buy warranties to cover cars that they buy privately against mechanical breakdown, thanks to a new scheme which is to be launched this week by Genesis Direct, a small Lincoln-based outfit, and backed by members of the Institute of Insurance Brokers.

Warranties, covering engines, clutch, transmission, drive systems, brakes, electrical and cooling systems, are available on new and second-hand cars bought from dealers. More than half the seven million

cars traded each year are bought at auction or privately and could not be covered by dealers' warranties. Private buyers should already be

able to buy a warranty following a service at an authorised dealer for their make of car, but few have done so. They will now be able to buy a warranty from an insurance broker, after

Private motorists will also be able to buy the warranties when they want to sell and pass them on as an extra for standard cars, according to Malincentive to buyers of their cars. Cars colm Moore, the general manager of which have been professionally ser-viced will be covered without further rates, 2.5 times the basic rate, will inspection. If no service history of a

car is available, an inspection will be

perhaps £45. and premiums for popular makes of ican cars, luxury cars such as Rolls-car will range between £120 and £278 Royce, Ferrari, Morgan and some a year. The cheapest rate covers cars of any age or mileage for individual claims up to £250 within a year and

12,000 miles. The most expensive premium avail-able under the scheme provides cars very cal. Similar schemes have blossomed £1,000 worth of cover on each claim keted, perhaps because of disputes within a year or 20,000 miles. Cover over the effects of wear and tear on they buy the car, when it has been ser- for parts subject to wear and tear will replacement cover.

otorists will shortly be able to viced, and when it needs to be taxed. be based on the age and mileage of the

The make and value is immaterial colm Moore, the general manager of the scheme's backers, but much higher apply on specialist cars such as Jaguars, Land Rovers, Range Rovers, needed to qualify, however, costing Audi Quattros and other off-road 4x4 vehicles, and cover is not available Four levels of cover will be available for any modified and kit cars, Amermodels with a "history", such as the Triumph Stags.

Mr Moore hopes he might sell upwards of 30,000 policies in the first up to three years old and with less than and faded in recent years, perhaps 40,000 miles on the clock with up to because they were not actively mar-



Deal-driven: private buyers will be able to purchase a warranty when a car has been serviced

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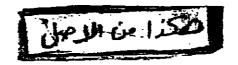
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The time is ripe for Tessa holders

Billions of pounds of Tessas are about to mature. That's a lot of cash looking for a home. By Clifford German

-Day is fast approaching for holders of literally billions of pounds worth of tax-exempt special savngs accounts (Tessas), who will have held their accounts for five years and will start to qualify to withdraw them without losing the tax-free interest they have been accumulating.

Individuals are allowed to invest up to £9,000 each in a Tessa, starting with up to £3,000 in the first year, £1,800 in each of the next three years and the balance in year five. The capital in a Tessa is not at risk, and the interest will be tax-free if the capital stays untouched over the five

years after the account was opened.

There is an estimated £25bn invested in Tessas, of which more than £12bn was invested in the first six months of 1991 alone, when interest rates of 13 per cent tax-free were briefly on offer. The buildup has been slower in recent years, but the Chancellor confirmed last year that all the accumulated capital in maturing Tessas can be rolled over into a new Tessa, provided it is done within the first six months after maturity.

That means £12bn available for reinvestment or redeployment in the next six months, but the accumulated interest. totalling at least £3bn in the first six months of 1996 alone, will not be eligible for rolling over, and will have to find another home.

Where will they go? Tessa savers are risk-averse, and they like their Tessas. But interest rates have halved since 1991 and might be going lower still. Paced with a possible massive loss of funds the banks and building societies that offer Tessa accounts are trumpeting their performance over the last five years, and publishing league tables. Among the top 20 banks and building societies Cheshire Building Society and Bradford & Bingley head the list (see table). But according to Money Pacts several smaller providers did holders can also choose to roll over into better still, led by Kent Reliance Building an escalator Tessa, which will pay 5.75 per Society, which generated £12,400, Dun-Hodge Bank and the Melton Mowbray

Building Society. The bigger players are already danging 2 January, with an estimated tax-free the prospect of extra attractions to persuade investors to renew their Tessas. Abbey National has announced three cent. There will be no initial charge for new Tessa accounts. The Tessa 3rd edition early roll-overs. offers tiered rates that offer 5.85 per cent up to 6.6 per cent for the maximum level of savings, and is available to both new and

roll-over investors. £9,000, however, are being offered a fixed-rate Tessa paying 7 per cent guaranteed, paid annually, plus a bonus structure which allows investors a 1 per cent maturing Tessas only a new fixed rate bonus payable at maturity for every year in which average base rate has risen more expected to turn £9,000 into £12,921 in five than 1 per cent over the previous year.

The guaranteed-growth Tessa is also eners fro available only to existing Tessa holders market. with a £9,000 maturing fund. It guarantees a 41 per cent return on the capital over than variable rate ones over the last five five years and has the same bonus struc- years, but there were not many of them, ture if base rates rise.



£25bn question: With cash in band, will investors be tempted to put it back into Tessas?

up for another five years or who have accumulated interest which they are not allowed to carry forward into a new Tessa.

Bradford & Bingley is offering its existing Tessa customers a fixed rate follow-up Tessa for the full £9,000 and a one-year special interest bond for maturing interest. It is offering a loyalty bonus of 0.75 per cent a year tax-free if they roll over an existing Tessa account with a minimum of £500 into a new variable rate Tessa and keep it for a further five years. Including the bonus, the initial rates are 6.5 per cent on amounts up to £3,000, rising in steps to 7.5 per cent on a full £9,000 roll-over. Rates can fluctuate but are guaranteed to be higher than balances in a 90-day account. Investors with at least £3,000 in Tessas from other providers are being offered a 0.5 per cent sweetener to switch to Bradford & Bingley.

Woolwich has similar ideas, and is offering a 0.25 per cent special bonus to roll-overs into a variable rate Tessa that starts off paying 6.1 per cent on amounts up to £6,600, rising to 7.05 per cent on a maximum £9,000 roll-over. Existing Tessa cent tax-free in the first year, rising in four steps to 10 per cent in year. Woolwich is also offering investors a new corporate bond Pep, available on annual management charge of 1.25 per

Cheltenham & Gloucester, HSBC on amounts up to £3,000, rising in steps Investment Bank and Barclays Bank have also recently announced special new options. HSBC Tessa Plus will offer 5 per oll-over investors. cent a year guaranteed, plus a bonus of up
Investors with a maturing Tessa fund of to 30 per cent extra, making a 55 per cent total return if the top 100 shares on the

Tessa earning 7.5 per cent tax-free that is years' time. You can expect similar sweeteners from all the big players in the Tessa

Fixed-rate Tessas actually did better and it is hard to see providers rushing to Abbey National is also offering offer attractive fixed rates while interest investors a two-year fixed interest bond, rates are falling. In spite of consumer loypaying a minimum of 4.88 per cent net, for alty and caution if interest rates continue those who do not want to tie their money to edge lower the attractions of tying

money up in Tessas for another five years. with or without the prospect of a loyalty bonuses, are no longer irresistible, and suppliers of other financial products are also touting their wares in the hope of attracting a slice of the maturing Tessa

The immediate rivals include personal equity plans, which like Tessas are tax-free. Unlike Tessas they can drop in value, but most would have out-performed Tessas over the last five years.

Corporate bond Peps currently earn more than a Tessa but can lose value if interest rates rise. Guaranteed income bonds have their supporters. So do guaranteed stock market bonds, which combine guarantees of the capital invested with possible capital gains if the stock market rises over the next five years. We shall look at these options in the next few weeks. Another less conventional alternative is to invest in traded endowment policies (see accompanying article).

BEFORE YOU ROLL OVER

Remember that Tessa accounts must be held for five years to escape tax. Bear in mind that interest rates and returns on Tessas in the next five years may be less Look around at the alternatives which may earn a lot more for relatively little risk.

Forget that the accumulated interest in your Tessa cannot be re-invested in a new Tessa. Be in a hurry to roll your Tessa over without looking around to see what competing Tessa

Forget you have six months from the time your present Tessa matures to decide.

Source: Blay's MoneyMaster

The best returns

Summary of five-year returns. (£9,000 invested over five years)

nk ·	Provider	Five-year materity value	return % p
	Cheshire BS	12,097.11	8.55
	Bradford & Bingley	12,093.40	8.55
· . ·	Derbyshire BS	12,056.81	8.46
٠	Halifax BS	12,040.86	8.42
ž".	Bristol & West	12,019.36	8.36
	Woolwich BS	12.011.61	8.35
.,,,,,	Leeds & Holbeck BS	11,975.10	8.26
	Yorkshire BS	11,959.00	8.22
<u>.</u>	National & Provincial	11, 94 6.07	8.18
	Coventry BS	. 11,935.13	8.16
	Skipton BS	11,928.70	8.14
	Britannia BS	11.922.35	8.13
	T\$B	11,904.68	8.08
	Northern Rock BS	11.875.59	8.01
1 1	Cheltenham & Gloucester		8.00
	Royal Bank of Scotland	11,870.47	8.00
	Nationwide BS	11,869.97	8.00
	Alliance & Leicester	11,844.87	7.93
• • •	Leeds Permanent BS	11,841.24	7.92
	Abbey National	11,830.92	7.90
	Birmingham Midshires	11,820.86	<u>7.87</u>
٠.	Chelsea BS	11,807.24	7.84
:	Portman BS	11,783.36	7.78
	Bristol & West BS	11,777.90	7.77
	NatWest Bank	11,659.55	7.47 .
•	Lloyds Bank	11,522.30	<u>7.12</u>
٠.	Barclays Bank	11,493.67	7.05 :
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No surrender

Trading insurance policies offers real returns

ne traded endowment market, which buys and sells second-hand endowment and with-profits insurance policies, provides a real alternative for investors. You need the money to buy a policy and maintain the premiums until it matures, but as the buyer you get the accumulated bonuses and the terminal bonus on the policy. The profit is subject to capital gains tax, but this can be minimised by buying several policies maturing in dif-

Only policies with at least six or seven years on the clock, and between six and 15 years to maturity, are really tradable, but selling a policy secures an average 33 per cent better price than simply surrendering it to the insurance company, and still leaves an attractive return for buyers. according to Max Rosen, managing director of SEC, one of half a dozen member firms of the Association of Policy Market Makers.

But exactly what you get when your second-hand policy matures depends on how well the insurance company invests your premiums, on the annual bonuses it adds to the value of the policy you have bought and on the size of the terminal

bonus it awards. The risks are much the same as if you buy a brand-new with-profits endowment policy to pay off your mortgage, but the time-frame is shorter and as the maturity date gets closer the importance of the terminal bonus rises, especially if the policy is issued by a company like Scottish Amicable that traditionally pays a high

proportion of its total bonuses as a terminal bonus.

Two years ago it was possible to buy policies that provided a prospective return of 13 per cent, but the average yield has dropped back to around 11 per cent, and the return on some policies has fallen even more sharply, reflecting the increasing difficulties insurance companies face in getting high returns in an environment of low inflation, and the poor performance of markets in 1994 in particular.

A portfolio of policies maturing over the next 10 years that was valued at £509,000 two years ago was recently revalued at £394,000. Market-makers claim, however, that it is still possible to buy a policy for £10,000, maintain premiums of say £50 a month for the next five years and receive a final return of £25,000 to £28,000 depending on the size of the terminal

For £5,000 it should be possible to buy a policy, pay pre-miums of just £20 a month for 10 years and end up with a jump sum of £25.000.

These days you could also buy a policy issued by a company like Norwich Union or Friends Provident that could turn into a limited company and pay a premium to policyholders as a sweetener to

approve the change. According to Mr Rosen, the price of such policies has not risen significantly, but they sell a great deal faster than some of the others.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

FEAR OF **FINANCE Clifford German**

week for horrowers gen-derally and home-owners in Autif. the unit trust trade particular, thanks to Santa body, publishes a free guide Ken and Santa Eddie and on how to make gifts without those hard-working elves at Halifax, Nationwide, Abbey
National and so on down the combines a trust investing in list. Anyone with a one-year mortgage discount of 6.1 per cent from Yorkshire Building free income and capital gains Society will shortly be paying allowances to build up an just 1.39 per cent interest!

What we borrowers really need next is a cut in the interest rates that the credit card companies levy. If you fail to pay off your balance in full by the end of the free credit period, interest rates range from 1.5 per cent to 1.75 per cent a month and, including annual charges, the annual percentage rates for the vast majority of cards range between 21 per cent and 23 per cent a year on unpaid balances.

But Christmas is precisely the time of year when credit card companies really clean up because shoppers tradiplastic and simply lack the means to pay the bills promptly in January. Retail

rate it charges on its base-rate on small sums can be high. linked cards, but these have no free credit period. By the time the rest of the pack get round to a cut they will have are those that also offer ing on fat post-Christmas discounts on ferry sailing, credit balances. The amount British Airways gives discount outstanding on credit bal- vouchers on selected flights, ances rises to an annual peak and Laura Ashley share-

Christmas brings an increas-Uing collection of gift sug-gestions. Unit trusts and gifts for children, especially as the risks are well spread and the investment can be added larger holding over time and shareholders.

Christmas came early this transferred to the child's own five high-yielding shares with investment fund.

Invesco offers a low-risk investment fund for regular savings as low as £20 and lump sums of just £50. Named after Rupert Bear, it is targeted at grandparents, parents and godparents investing for children. Harp-enden Building Society has a special high-rate account pay-ing 6.75 per cent (which can be paid tax-free) on amounts as small as £5. National Savings offer tax-free children's bonus bonds in amounts as small as £25, with a guaran-teed 7.85 per cent return if held for five years. Halifax Building Society offers chiltionally over-spend on their dren's bonus bonds with an identical return.

Many friendly societies like the Southampton-based spending using credit cards Foresters Friendly Society, over Christmas is usually will open accounts for as litmore than 50 per cent above the as £1 a month to build up the annual average.
So far only Save & Prosper has cut a quarter point off the services and the future. The money builds up into a tax-free lump sum, but charges

The most popular individual shares at this time of year had at least two months feast- shareholders perks. P&O give and it takes until the end of February before the seasonal excess is paid off.

holders get a 15 per cent discount on one full-price purchase. AB Foods, Austin Reed, Burton Group, Forte, General Accident, Greenalls, Kwik-Fit, Ladbrokes, Moss Bros, Next, Scottish & Newinvestment trusts are suitable castle. Storehouse, Vaux and Whitbread are also among the 150 companies listed in E Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years. H Annual fine warred after first year if £4K+ charged to card during previous year. stockbrokers Henry Cooke to regularly to build up a Lumsden's book of perks for

A 1.58% (20.6% APR) for o/s bal over EJK.

All rates subject to change without notice.

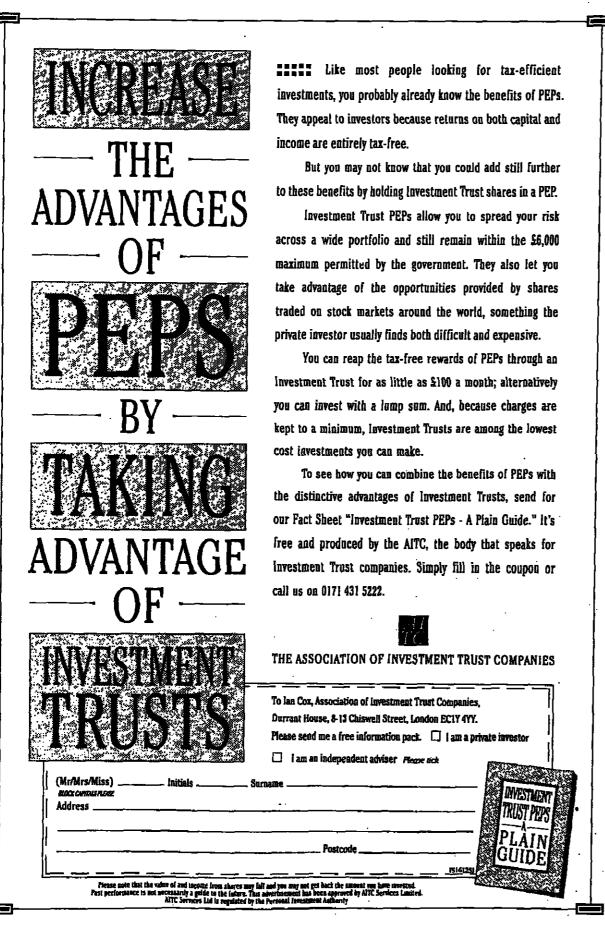
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How to order

A path through the corporate minefield

The UK corporate bond world is young, small and volatile. Continuing our series on investment vehicles, Alison Eadie looks at the corporate bond personal equity plan

orporate bond personal equity plans are new financial animals based on a young and developing market. British companies only started to issue bonds in any volume from the mid-1980s when inflation began to fall. The UK corporate bond universe is still very small compared with the longer-established equities market. Barclays de Zoete Wedd puts the total value of Pep-qualifying investments at £32.2bn. The value of UK ordinary shares, by contrast, is around £840bn.

Ian Spreadbury, manager of Fidelity's MoneyBuilder corporate bond Pep, estimates that there are around 100 reasonably liquid "qualifying" corporate bonds (ie issued by UK companies not in the financial sector). He excludes preference and convertible stocks, which MoneyBuilder avoids as too volatile. The number of issuers is less than 100 as some companies have more than one qualifying bond.

Because of the limited market, MoneyBuilder uses the half of the fund that does not have to be in "qualifying" bonds to diversify into other "non-qualifying" fixed-interest stocks. The choice of investments then rises to 500 bonds, plus about 70 different government stocks, or gilts. At present MoneyBuilder is spread 55 per cent in qualifying bonds, 23 per cent in gilts and 22 per cent in financial, foreign-issued Eurosterling and other non-qualifying bonds.

The £60m fund now holds around 50 investments, which will rise to 60 as more money flows in. Designed to appeal to building society investors, the emphasis is on avoiding risk. "Investors want stability and security," says Mr Spreadbury. For that reason no one corporate issuer accounts for more than 3 per cent of the portfolio, and the "non-qualifying" allocation is used to diversify into good-quality credits. These presently include European Investment Bank. Bayerische LandesBank and Abbey National.

MoneyBuilder uses a stock selection rather than an interest rate-driven investment strategy. Mr Spreadbury believes that positioning a fund according to the direction of interest rates carries a higher widen. degree of capital risk. Rates are notoriously difficult to guess right. He prefers is the Tessa effect. A whopping £16bn in to neutralise the effect of interest rates tax-exempt special savings accounts and avoid excessive capital volatility matures in the first quarter next year and

This research involves close liaison between the fixed-interest team and Fidelity's equity analysts. Mr Spreadbury looks closely at corporate balance sheets, debt-to-equity ratios and cash flows to see if companies can finance capital expenditure and cover interest bills comfortably. He checks the value of corporate assets, to see if they are over- or rate bonds are held at the long end. under-valued in the accounts, and assesses the quality of management. He trust set up for investors wanting perstresses the importance of meeting senior

management on a regular basis. Much time is also spent poring over prospectuses to establish how bonds capital gains when bonds mature, is cur-

any other built-in protection. Some bonds can be sold back to the company at par if the company restructures and the bonds fall below their credit rating.

You also have to think laterally about what can happen to a company to change its credit rating," Mr Spreadbury says. Lateral thinking is very much required in the present takeover bonanza on the London stock market. It has proven conclusively that what is good for share-holders can be bad for bondholders.

MoneyBuilder has shied away from bonds issued by utilities, particularly those of regional electricity companies, because as share prices have soared on takeover activity, bond prices have fallen.

Bond prices reflect nervousness about increased indebtedness needed to fund takeovers. Granada and Forte bonds have both underperformed since Granada launched its bid for the hotels group, as the combined group is likely to be more highly geared than the compa-

Out- and under-performance are measured by the bond's behaviour relative to an equivalent maturity gilt. The higher yield on bonds over an equivalent gilt compensates for its extra credit risk and degree of illiquidity. Mr Spreadbury's job is to ferret out mispriced bonds. The market is not perfect and recently got British Gas wrong, he points out. British Gas bonds have recently been downgraded from triple-A to double-A-minus and single-A1. MoneyBuilder tends to invest in the better credit risks of single to triple-A bonds, but will consider a triple-B if internal research indicates that the market has the rating wrong.

Mr Spreadbury believes that yield margins, which are historically very tight, (ie close to gilt yields), will widen. He argues that the supply of gilts will diminrequirement falls, making gilts more expensive and reducing the yield. Corporate bond supply, however, is expected to increase as companies rush to raise cheap money. Bonds will get cheaper,

The wild card, admits Mr Spreadbury, through buying a mix of long and short bonds from 30 to five years' maturity.

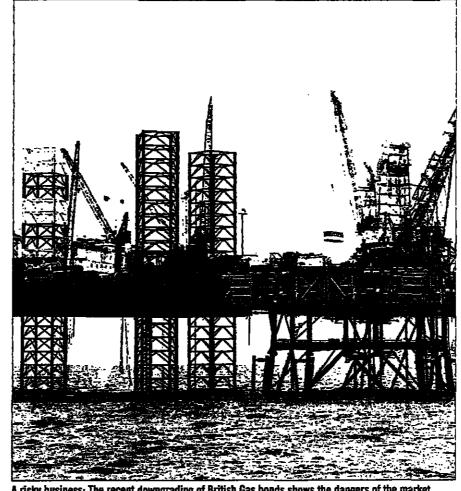
"We put our bets on where we have done our research," he explains.

The short done in the first quarter next year and an unquantifiable chunk of it could end up in corporate bond Peps. If demand proves greater than supply, bond yields could even go below gilt yields. Mr

Spreadbury says.

Despite this, Mr Spreadbury is sticking with his prediction of margin widening longer-term, and has positioned MoneyBuilder for a comfortable level of protection. As the price risk of widening margins is greatest in longer maturities. only gilts and the better-quality corpo-

(MoneyBuilder is a specialised unit sonal equity plans investing in corporate bonds. There are no front-end or exit charges, the running yield, excluding any rank relative to other company debt and rently 7.82 per cent, and the annual manwhether they have a charge on assets or agement charge is 0.7 per cent.)



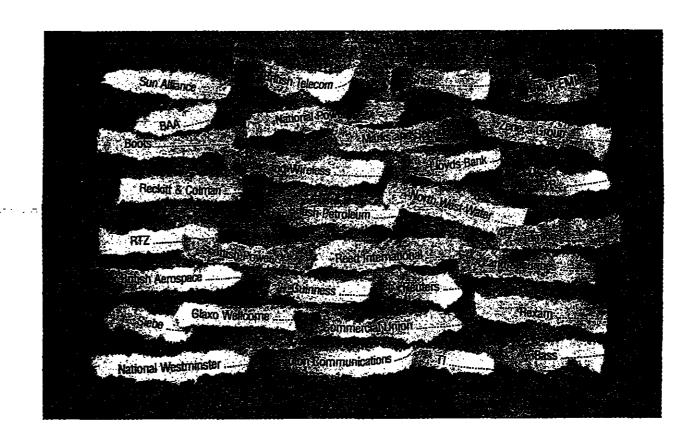
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the young Liverpudian doley, whose ideal tough tale of love and language. Boasts powism and activism land him on the front-line, erful performances and tremendous mythm. while Jim Allen's screenplay gets to the heart Bush Theatre, London of the people as well as the politics.

Cinderella Slippers, songs, stillness and

Babe A jolly farmyard adventure which sibling rivalry in the third parito from class-

incestuous maids (Joely Richardson and is a marvel, Terry Johnson's theetrical script Jodhi May, above), who decide to do away is furny and tritelligent, the acting is outwith their wealthy employer, Julie Walters: standing Duke of Yorks, London

Ryan Gilbey

THEATRE

Land and Freedom Ian Hart is touching as Knives in Hens David Harrower's tender and

follows a pig who thinks he's a sheepdog, act writer/director Colin Wakefield and comSo far, it's had no problem appealing to carnivores and vegetarians alike.

Sister My Sister Chilly mood piece about two

Hysteria (above) Phyllida Lloyd's production

David Benedict

EXHIBITIONS

David Hockney Although Hockney has experimented with a variety of mediums, drawing has maintained a central focus of his work. Royal Academy, London; to 28 Jan Now Wash Your Hands (above) Nine young British artists explore domestic objects. Watch out for Hadrian Piggott's fetishistic video of the artist washing a bathroom sink with soap. Bristol Amolfini; to 7 Jan

Art and Power Attempts the enormous task of investigating the cultural arrogance of the Totalitarian powers between 1930 and

1945. Hayward Gallery, London; to 21 Jan

critics' choice

Simply Red Platinum-glory boy and white is, soulking Mick Huckhall (above) sees whether this ego can fit into this stadium, it may be a light squeeze. Weathley Arena, 18-20 Dec Naughtly by Nature Roughneck rep from the Statistic and the Statistic Property Red Platinum of the Roughness Statistic Red Roughness Statistic Red Roughness Statistic Red Roughness Statistics Property Red Roughness Statistics Red Roughness Statistics Red Roughness Roughness Statistics Red Roughness Roughness Red Roughness Ro

SEPLETT WELL

OPERA

Llanelli

London

Hander's West, Chairmin See Critic's Choice. From tonight Mon-Sat 7.30pm (no perf.25 Dec), mass today, 18, 20, 23, 55-27, 29-30 Dec, 6.1an, 2.30pm, conds 6.1an, 25-20, consequiable (not. 26-30 Dec). Rombery Avenue (0171-278/916) & Angel.

THE FUT SLLE WELSH NUTTOKUL OPERA

Hausel and Gratel See Critic's Choice. Tenight 7.30pm.£5, concr.£3.50. Station Road (01554-774057)

La Bala Nestr Michael Prayn's adaptation of Offenbach, directed by Lan Judge. Toxight 7.30pm, 88-050. St Martin's Lame (0171-632-8300) & Leac Sq.

core punts.
The Perion Highway Rand NWS (NT)-344
2004) Higher Kindah Town, San Tyun, 28,59.
Ninjah in Mitar See Chirich Chalch.
Schwarde Actine Rd (0181-800 4590)

& Ladonike Corve. 19 Dec. Spin, E10.

Simply had See Critic's Choice.
Whenhity Arena Empire Way (0181-90)
1234) • Wanniey Park, 18 Dec, 6.30pm,
phone for availability.



arts and entertainment listings

FILM **WEST END** WEST END

- also outside Landon

- The INSTRUM PRESIDENT (15) The US president falls in love. Empty Letocater Square
1.03.325, 6.00, 8.35, 1.1.271 (Sat); Fallson
Road MCSM 1.10, 3.50, 6.40, 9.20; Treductero
MCSM 1.20, 3.15, 6.10, 9.10, 12-midnight
(Sat); Noning Hill Covener 3.00, 6.00, 8.30;
Odeon High Sweet Rensington 1.40, 4.20, 7.00,
9.40, 12.20mi (Sat); Screen on Buker Sweet 3.15,
6.05, 8.35; ICC Whiteleys 1.00, 3.40, 6.25, 9.00

- MRRES MD INSELTS (18) Adaptation of AS
Byeath's novel. Curron Marylatr 1.00 (Sat),
3.30, 6.00, 8.30; Fribrain Road MCSM 3.30,
8.55; Swiss Cottage Odeon Sat 12.40, 3.10, 8.55; Swiss Colunge Odeson Set 12.40, 3.10, 5.40, 8.15, 12midnight; Sun 12.40, 3.10, 5.40, 8.15; Richmond Filmhouse 2.30, 5.15, 8.00 8,15; Richmond Fibritains 2-81, 5.12, 5.04 ● #POLLO 12 (PG) The true story of the 1970 Apollo 13 mission, Empire Leitester Square 12noon, 2.45, 5.30, 8.15, 11.15 (Sat)

Limon, 245, 3-30, 8.15, 11.15 (Sat)

BME (1) The animarronic adventures of
a pia, Barbican Comena 2.00 (Sat), 4.00,
6.15, 8.15; Clapham Picture House 11.45am
(Sat), 150, 4.15, 6.40, 8.45; Empire Leicester
Spitare 12ncon, 2.10, 4.20, 6.30, 8.45, 11.30
(Sat); Balker Street MGM 2.00, 4.30, 6.35,
8.45; Fallham Road MGM 2.00, 4.10, 6.20,
8.46; Fallham Road MGM 2.00, 4.10, 6.20,
8.47; Empirera MGMT 2.00, 4.20, 6.20,
8.47; Empirera MGMT 2.00, 6.20

8.30; Trocadero MG.V12.30, 245, 5.00, 7.10. 9:20; Swiss Cottage Odeon Sat 1.20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50; Plant 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00, ETBALL (WRIES (18) Depiction of a

11.45 (Sat); Ricy Chema 2.00 (Sat), 4.05 (Sat), 6.20, 8.30; UCT Whiteleys 11.00am, 12.45, 2.55, 5.05, 7.15, 9.30 BEFORE SUMMISE (15) Richard Linklater's romantic drame. Racy Cinema Sat I 40am -The Brothers McMullen 11.30, Sun 2.50 + The Brothers McMullen 4.35

LA BELLE ET LA BETE (PG) Jean Cocteau's clas-

sic version of the fairy-tale, Riter Cinema 2.45, 4.55, 7.05, 9.15, 11.25 (Set)

THE BRIDGES OF MURISON COUNTY (12) Client Eastwood directs and stars. Warner West End 12moon, 2.45, 5.30, 8.20

THE BROTHERS MICHUELLEN (15) Three Irish/American brothers are shaken by the death of their father. Gase Noting Hill 2.50 (Sat), 5.00, 7.05, 9.10, 11, 15 (Sat); Lumiere 2.15, 4.25, 6.40, 8.55; Rity Cinema 2.25 (Sat), 4.35, 7.00, 9.15, 11.30 (Sat) + Before Sumise; Screen on the Green 4.15, 6.45, 8.55 Sumost; Screen on the Green 4.15, 0.45, 3.25
BROWT ST HE SM (15) A wide's at-boyfriend
returns. MGM Swiss Centre 2.10, 6.00, 9.00

© CREENERON (18) A Strange Victorian love
SUCCY. Fundon Sincer MGM 2.15, 5.40, 9.00

© CRY OF LOST CRILINEN (15) A man kidneys
children to steal their dreams. MGM Swiss
Compe 2.10, 3 70, 655, 9.75

© CUELSSS (12) Privileged brats have ansiety artacles over their wardrobes. Minner Next End 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10 © CBBSSR TUE; (15) Substantine thriller.
Chebra MGM 6.25, 9.15; Haymorket MGM
Sat 1.25, 4.00, 6.35, 9.10; San 2.15, 5.20, 8.25;
Odean Hard Staret Revisione 4.10, 6.55, 9.40,
12.25am (Sat); Odean Mezzurane, Leicenter
Spaner 2.45, 5.55, 8.35; UCI Whiteleys 9.35
© BE 1871 Lab US 1976 1.17; Tim Die med

© BR JESTIL AND MS WINE (12) Tim Daly and Scan Young star, UCT Whiteless 7.25; Warner West End 9.10, 11.30 ● BLSI (15) A feisty young woman is deter-maned to find her father. Panton Sover MGMProgra 1.50, 4.20, 6.50, 9.20; MGM Sixis Centre 1.55, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15 Solis Cenire 1.55. 4.15, 6.45, 9.15

→ FREMELI (15) Bicpic of an 18th century custralo singer. Totacham Court Read MCM 4.25, 9.35; The Minema 3.00, 6.30, 8.45; Olden High Store Remangion 4.39, 9.40

→ FREMCH IDSS (12) Meg Ryan stars as a jaled finance. Tocadem MCM 1.20, 3.40, 6.30; Olden High Store Remaington 9.25; Wanter West End 1.50, 4.10, 9.30, 12midnight enters in the start 1.50, 4.10, 9.30, 12midnight GHOST #I THE SHELL (15) Japanese ammanion. Trocadoro MGM 12-20, 2-20, 4-25, 6-25, 8-25 Tracoulero MGM 12.20, 2.20, 4.25, 6.25, 8.25

© GOUGETE (1.2) Lorners Bornd reinstarcaced for the Perror Browners. Burbann Cinemis 6.00, 8.40; Phrece Browners. Burbann Cinemis 6.00, 8.40; Clapham Picture Husser 1.00, 3.30, 6.30, 9.15; Balter Street AGGM 2.10, 5.10, 8.10; Clebera MGM 12.50, 3.35, 6.30, 9.10; Fallmarn Road MGM 12.50, 3.35, 6.35, 9.15; Outern High Street Aramagons 12.45, 3.40, 6.35, 9.30, 12.25cm (Satt. Outern Lenester Square 11.50cm, 2.50,

Actington L.-O., Ava. G.S.V., A.S.L. L.-Sum (Sat. D. door Leicester Square 11.50am, 250, 2.50, 8.50, 11.45 (Sat.); Odeon Mathle Arch 3.05, 6.00, 8.55; Swiss Costage Odeon Sat. 12.0, 2.30, 6.15, 9.10, 11.55; San. 1.10, 5.30, 8.15; U.77 Philades 12.20, 3.10, 6.00, 6.15, 8.50, 9.20

late is a group of n. Chebra MGM MGM 240,551,8*5*0 ● LIND 2 FREEDOM (15) Ken Loach's intest film abrun 1930s Spain. Curson Phoenix 1.15 (Sax), 3.40, 6.05, 8.30; Oxforn Mecannine, Leficister Square 6.00; Renvir 1.45, 4.05, 6.25, 8.50

● LIVING IN OBLINON (15) The truit and tribulations of a low-budget film-making, Prostor Street MGM 2.10, 4.40, 7.15, 9.35

● THE MANDESS OF BING GERBE (FO) Alam Bermett's connecty about George III. MGM Soits's Centre 2.00, 4.40, 6.45, 9.30

WIEMAEL ON 9481 STREET (1) Richard Attenbotrough starts. Chelsen MGM Sat 10.00am

IME MIPPET GRISTIMS CHRIL (1) Michael Caine surrounded by a lot of mappets. Clapham Picture House Sat 11.45am

● MIRCHER IN THE PRIST (15) A young lawyer defends a manderer. Clapham Picture House 2.00 (Sat), 4.30, 7.00, 9.30; Fullman Road

MGM 124, 0.3.20, 6.10, 9.10; Haymanket

MGM Sat 2.00, 5.45, 8.55; Sun 2.00, 3.05.

MGM 12-40, 3-20, 6-10, 9-10; Hapmanket
MGM Sat 2-30, 5-45, 8-55; Sun 2-00, 5-05,
8-10; Swiss Contage Odeon Sat 12-10, 3-30,
6-35, 9-20, 11-30 (Sat); Son 12-10, 2-30, 5-35,
8-20, UCT Whiteleys 12-55, 3-35, 6-20, 9-10;
Warner West End 1-00, 3-40, 6-20, 9-00, 11-50
W DREIG CLEIGHNEE (U) Re-release of the
1946 classic western. Reneir 2-25, 4-35, 6-45, 9-00
WEST LICENSE TO Section 1-20, 10-20, 10-20
WEST LICENSE TO SECTION 1-20, 10-20, 1

| THE BET (12) Sendra Bullock stars as a computer bodin. Odeon Mexamine, Leicer-ur Square 300, 830
| THE BET (13) SENDRA BULLOCK CHRISTMAS (PG) A spooky festive tale. Gate Noting Hill Son 12.45 + Ed Wood 2.35; Ritry Cinema Son 2.00 + Rabe 3.30

Sen. 2.00 + Bahe 3.30

POCHONUS (U) Disney animation adventus

Orelan MCSd 1.30, 3.20; Odern High St Kensington 130; Swiss Conage Odeon 1245; UCT Whiteless 1105; Warner West End 1200, 200 R. POSTINO (15) A postman befriends a retired poet. Futhern Read MGM 1,00, 620; Shafterbury Avenue MGM 2,10, 5,25, 8,25; Screen on Baker Street 4,05, 6,30, 8,30 Screen on Baker Stores 4,05, 6,30, 8,50

THE SMITH CLASSE (LI) Trut Allen stars as a non-believer forced to take Father C's place. Chekses MGM 12,45, 2,55, 5,05, 7,20; Colean High Street Ren 200, 4,30, 7,00; Swier Cottage Odernt Sat 1,10, 4,15, 6,55, 9,35; Sun 1,20, 3,50, 6,20, 8,45; UCF Whiteleps 1,200, 3,45, 6,20, 8,45; UCF Whiteleps 1,200, 3,45, 6,20, 8,45; UCF Whiteleps 1,200, 2,15, 4,40, 7,10, 9,40

Lincon, 2.15, 4.40, 7.10, 9.40

HE SIMILT LETTER (15) Remains of the classic American powel. Odeon West End,
Lefcester Square 1.45, 5.30, 8.25

SHUGSH URBO (15) Gangstar-flic ext in 1930s
China. Cheftee Cinema 1.45, 4.05, 6.25, 8.50;
Carzon West End 1.30 (San), 3.30, 6.05, 8.40

RE SHOTHER (18) Doigh Lundgern stars.
Incondero MeGM San 12.10, 3.00, 6.15, 9.15,
London MeGM San 12.10, 3.00, 6.15, 9.15,

SISTER, MY SESTER (15) Piccodilly MGM 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.40; Tottenham Coun Road 3.45, 6.10, 8.40; *Total* MCM 1.55, 7.15

THE SIGN PRINCESS (I.) Animared advantion of Swan Lake. Trocaders MGM 12noon, 2.1 4.25; UCT Whiteleys 10.30nm, 12.30, 2.45 • THEE WISHES (PG) The Holman family End 12:50, 3:50, 6:10, 8:40, 11:20
THE THE THIRDS (18) A girl is form between ber real and adoptive parents. *Broaders*MGM 7.05, 9.20, 12midnight (Sar): Plana MGW 715, 9.20, 1.2m/chight (Sat); VCI White 150, 405, 6.20, 8.35, 11.50 (Sat); VCI White 150, 5.10, 7.30, 9.50; Werner West End 4.50, 7.20, 9.40, 12m/chilght TO DIE FOR (15) Nicole Klalman plays a

William Pilays and Michigan Blays a murderous TV star. Hapmander Michiga Sar. 150, 405, 640, 9.15; Sun 2.15, 5.20, 8.25; Odean High Sovet Kensingson 1.55, 7.05; Tulliam (Sat); Odean Mecanime, Leicenber Square 2.55, 6.15, 8.40; Warner Mex End 1.10, 3.30, 5.50, 8.30, 11.10
 William FOO (PCT) Particle Swayze stars. Pinca 3.55 (Sat), 8.40 (Sun), 11.20 (Sat)
 Milliam Start Start Deputify (1.50)

● MODER SEESE 2. MARK TERRITORY (18) Sueven Seagal as a many cook/communicio. Warmer West End4.00, 6.30, 8.50, 11.20 ● DESTRUME HERDES (PG) A 12 year-old boy

goes to stay with his eccentric uncles. Tot Rd MGM 205, 435, 7.00, 9.35; Riter Con-Rd MGM 2.05, 4.35, 7.00, 9.35; Riter Central 2.30 (Sat.), 4.40, 6.55, 9.05, 11.20 (Sat.), Screen on the Hill 2.35, 4.45, 7.00, 9.00
● Hill USIM: SESFECTS (18) Unusual duriller: Claphum Picture House Sum 2.00; Cheben MGM 1.40, 4.10, 6.45, 9.30; Patricia Street MGM 2.05, 4.30, 7.00, 9.25; Warner West End 2.00, 4.30, 6.50, 9.20, 11.40
● A WML IT THE CLOUDE (PCF) Vestur Research A WHA IN THE CLOUDS (PG) Keans Reeves stars, Warner Mest End 2.30, 7.00
WHEN MIGHT IS SHALING (18) Unconventional romance. Piccodilly MGM 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.40

parties managers
0171 except where noted; Barbinan Cononts
639 8591; Choises Cinema 351 3742; Chapten Penner House 468 3323; Curzon
Maydat 30 1720; Charon Phoesis 569 1721;
Chrzon West End 369 1722; Empire Leie Sq
0990-85991; Gare Notting Hill 727 4943;
Lumiere 379 3014; Metro 437 0757; Baler; St
MGM 925 9772; Chelsen MGM 327 5996;
Fulhaon Rd MGM 0181-970 6011; Haymar-

het MGM 839 1527; Panton St MGM 930 6631; Piccacilly MGM 437 3561; Staftnebury Ave MGM 836 6279; MGM 5465 Centre 437 2096; Tot C. Rd MGM 636 6148; Trocadero MGM 434 6052; The Minema 235 4225; Notting Hill Caronet 277 6705; Odeon Haymandet 189 7697; Odeon Haymandet 189 7697; Odeon Hays St Ken 01426-914660; Odeon Leic Sq 950 3532; Odeon Marthie Arch 01426-91450]; Odeon Merzanire, Leic Sq 01426-91450]; Odeon Merzanire, Leic Sq 01426-91450]; Odeon Merzanire, Leic Sq 01426-91450]; Odeon West End, Leic Sq 930 3522; Plaza 6990-888990; Renoir 837 8402; Richmond Filmhouse 0181-332 0030; Rizpy Corema 757 2121; Scra on Baler St 935 2772; Scna on the Cnn 226 3524; Scna on the Hill 435 3366; UCI Whiteleys 0990-888990; Warner West End 437 4343

REPERTORY CINEMAS EVERYIMAN opposite Hampstead Tube NW3 (0171-435 1525)

EBSTMMM opposite Hampstead Taire NW3 (0171-435 1525)
La Belle et la Bete (PG) Sat 3pm, 3pm, 7pm, 9pm Deixalog 4 (PG) Sat 2pm, 5pm, 1pm, 1pm, 9pm Deixalog 4 (PG) Sat 215pm + Deixalog 5 (PG) 3.5pm + Deixalog 6 (PG) 5.45pm La Belle et la Bete (PG) 7pm, 9pm
I& The Mall SW1 (0171-930 36-47)
A Close Stave (U)/Aardman Animation (U) Sat-San 3pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7.30pm, 9pm
IWT South Bank SEI (0171-923 3232)
Doctor Zhivago (PG) Sat 2.15pm Tim Burton's The Nightmare Below Carissmass (PG) Sat 4pm Field of Dreams (PG) Sat-San 6.35pm La Belle et la Bete (PG) Sat-San 6.35pm The Round-Up San 7.30pm Miracke On 34th Street (U) San 3.30pm Angele/Jofroi San 5.30pm The Round-Up San 7.30pm A Sate is Bons San 8.40pm Batman Parever (PG) San 8.45pm PROBER High Road NZ (0181-883 2233)
Miracke On 34th Street (U) Sat 11am Fainelli (15) Sat 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7.15pm, 9.35pm; San 6.5pm PROBE (180 San 6.30pm
PRINE (180 LE Setter Place (0171-437 8181)
Nine Montin (12) Sat 1pm Die Hand With A Memorated (15) Sat 1pm Die Land With Land Land Man Man Die Hand With A Memorated (15) Sat 1pm Die Hand With Land Man Die Hand With Die Land With Land Man Die La

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place (0171-437 8181)
Nuce Montins (12) Set Jum Die Hardt With A
Vengeance (15) Set Jum Die Hardt With A
Vengeance (15) Set 3.10pm While You Were
Steeping (PG) Set 5.45pm Pulp Piction (18)
Set 8.85pm Apocalypse Now (18) Set 11pm
Cold Fewer (15) Sen 1.30pm La Separation
(PG) Sen 3.45pm Apocalypse Now (18) Sen
J.45pm The Adventures Of Priscille, Queen
Of The Desert (15) Sen 3.45pm
RIO Kingstand High St (0171-254 6677)
Babe (U) Set 11om, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,
8.45pm; Sun 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm; Sun 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,
8.45pm; Sun 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm Braveheart (15) Set 11.13pm Bottom Sarrett Sen
8.30pm + Denko (PG) 8.50pm + Le Balion
D'Or (PG) 2.10pm
RIESERE ST8000S Crisp Rd (0181-741 2255)

HOUSENDE STUDIOS Crisp Rd (0181-141 &cc)
Hear My Song (15) Sar 6.15pm + Treacle
8.20pm + Funny Bones (15) 8.30pm Un
Crisen Andalou (18) San 2.50pm + Cheer,
Boys, Cheer (PG) 2.45pm + Confidential
Report (alm Mr Adantia) (PG) 4.30pm Ir's
A Wonderful Life (12) San 7.30pm + Withman 8.7153 8.10pm

ned & I (15) & //hom uall & I (15) & 10pm
will Edwin and Science High Street, Brentford Tw8 (0181-568 1176)
Casper (PC) Set 1.30pm The Bridges Of
Madison County (12) Set 6.15pm In The
Bleak Midwinter (15) Set 8.45pm Jeanne La
Pucelle - Part One (PG) Set 3.15pm +
Jeanne La Pucelle - Part Two (PG) 5.45pm
In The Bleak Midwinter (15) Set 8.30pm

THEATRE **WEST END**

Matinees — [1]: Star. [3]: The. [4]: Pled. [5]: Thu. [6]: Fri. [7]: Sat [4]: Free [2]: (Int. [2]): (I

Strond Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) & Covent Garden, The Tim 8.00, Fri 5.30 & 8.30, Sat 5.00 & 8.30, [1] 4.00, £9-£28.50. New London Driny Lane, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) & Covent Garden, Mon-Set 7.45, [3][7] 3.00, £10.50-£30. CLUTHÍA DOORS

Geignal Strattenbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ♦ Pice Circ. Mon-Sat 7:30, [4][7] 3:00, 13:50-624. COMPARY
Sondheim and George Furth musical.
Downer Warehouse Eurham Street, WC2.
(0171-369 1732) & Laif-Sq. Mon-Sat 7-30,
[4][7] 3.00, ends 2 Mar. £12-£24.

Henry Johnson's hit comedy.

Sevey Strand, WC2 (0171-836 88889/cc 836

0479) ◆ Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Fri

8.00, Sat 8.15, [4] 2.30, [7] 5.00, £10-£21-50.

DEAD SHELTY
Richard Harris' thriller.
Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5070) & Prec Circ. Mon-Fri 8,00, Sat 5,00 &
8,15, [5] 3,00, ends 27 Jan. £8-£20.

DON'T BRESS FOR BUILDER

Duckers Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494

SUTS/oc 379 4444) & Covent Garden, Mon-Fri 8.00, Sat 5.00 & 8.30, [4] 3.00, £8-£18.50.

Fin Stall, 381 3410 & a-re, [17] 3414, 40-20-36.

Final THE MUSICAL.

The stage version bit film and TV series.

Combridge Earlham Street, WCZ (0171-494

5080) & Covent Garden, Mon. Sat 7.30,

(4)7) 3.00, £10-£25. (Ng. 1300, 200-20.) FIVE GUYS RAMED INGE Alboy St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730ic: 867 1111) & Leic Sq. Mon-Thu 8.00, Fri & Set 6.00 & B.45, cods 13 Jan, 25-228.

FORMY MONEY

Ray Cooney's latest comedy.

Playhouse Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401) & Embankment. Mon-Sat 8.00, [5] 3.00, [7] 5.00, £5-£20.

THE GLASS METAGERE

Tennessee Williams' tragic drama.

Comody Panton Street. SW1 (0171-369 1731)

4- Pric Circl. icis Sq. Mon-Sut 7.30, [7] 3.00, ends 16 Mar, £5-£23. CELLE Dominion Breenham Ct Rd, W1 (0171-4166060) & Thri Ct Rd, Mon-Sar 7-30, [4] 7] 310, £10-£750.

ROBSOR'S CHOICE
Harold Brightonse's comedy.
Lynic Shafarshay Are (0171-494 5045) ⊕ Pioc
Circ. Mans-Sat 7-30, [7] 3.00, cm/s 3 Feb, 18-224.

Henry Goodman stans at Frend.

Dubt of Nort's St Mantin's Lane, WC2 (0171-8365122)cc 8369837) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat
7.30, [5][7] 3.00, ends 27 Jan, 25-272-50. NEUMAN BAR Then Stoppard's latest with Niemh Cosack. Akhrych Akhrych (0171-416 6003) ⊕ Hollown. Mon-Sar 7.30, [4][7] 3.00, ends 6 Jan. £10-£5.

M MSPECTOR CALLS IB Priessley's thriller, Garrick Castring Cross Rd (0171-494 5085) & Leiz Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 8.15, [4] 2.30, [7] 5.00, cods 6 Jan, 69-624 50.

orian Comey as the sweaters care conservation.

Victoria Palace Victoria St. (0171-834 1317)

⊕ Victoria, Mon-Sat 730, [4][7] 3.00, £12-50-£30. Palace Shaftesbury Are (0171-434 0909) & Pice Circ. Mon-Set 7.30, [5][7] 2.30, £7-£30.

MACK & MASEL Musical of Mack Sconer's enduring love.

Piccodilly Denman St (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, £17.50-£32.50. THE MASTER MAILBER

Peter Hall directs Alan Banes in Bosen's play. Theater Royal Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) & Pher Care, Mon-Sar 7A5, [4][7] 3.00, ends 6 Ian, £10-£26. London Pallodium Argyll St (017]-494 5020) ◆ Ox Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30. [4][7] 2.30, £10-£50. THE PRIABITION OF THE OPERA

Her Majeny's Haymarket (0171-494 5400) ◆ Fice Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, £9-£30. PRISONER (ELL BLOCK II Musical paredy of the cult TV series. Queen's Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5040) & Picc Circ. Mon-Thu 8.00, Fri & Sar 8.45, [7] 6.00, croks 13 Jan. £7.50-£24 BOYAL MATHOMAL TREATME:

Olivier: A Little Hight Haste Jadi, Deach stars. Today 2.00, 7.15. Lytekton: Resemble And Galldonstern Are Dead Sircon. Russell Beale stars in Stoppard's comedy. Today 2.15, 7.30

Cottesion:
Richard II Froma Sinaw sturs as the king.
Richard II Froma Sinaw sturs as the king.
Richard III J. 700.
Olivier £11.50-£20; Lyntleton £7.50-£72.50;
Cottesion £14.50, restricted view £10,
Scotch Bank (1017-728 £222) © Whitesion.
ROTAL SHARESPERIC COMPARY.

The Barbicare
A Oristans Carol Lan Judge's production of
Dickens' tale. Today 200, 7.15. Today 2.00, 7.15.
Barbican Theatre 56-524; The Pk £10-£16.
Barbican Cr (0171-638 8891) & Barbican. THE ROY CONSISCE STORY

Jonatian Harvey's Liverpudian love story.

Criterion Themre Piccadilly Cares, W1 (0171369 1747) & Piccadilly Cares, The-Set & Son
7.30, mats [7] 4, [1] 3.30, each 3 Mar. £5-£21.

THE SHANDSPEARE NETWER
Samical Strikespeareas revue.
Simules Strand, WC2 (0171-826-9987)
BRI-9 Charlog X. Mon-Fri 8.00, Set 5.30-8;
8.30 [4] 2.30, £10-£22.50. STABLISHT EXPRESS Apollo Victoria Witton Rd (017)-416-6070) & Victoria Mon-Set 7-45,[3][7]300, £12-50-£10.

Statter atom Franci Adelphi Strand (0171-344 0055) & Char X. Mon-Sat 7.45. [5][7] 5.00, £15-£32.50. THREE TALL WOMEN HRBER Med. museum ABree's sectioned drama. Wysulfarm's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736-c; 867 1111) ◆ Leic Sq. Last performances today 3.00, 8.00, £9.50-£25.

HAMSPOTTOM

Ivine Welsh's insight into the drug culture.
Arthogonalors West St (0171-826-6111)

O Leis Sq. From tonight, Mon-Fri 8.00, Sar
8.0. [4]75-00, emb 77 Jun. 85-816-50.

HERSHEE ISLAMD

Giya Robbins' panto adaptation.
Mermaid Paddle Dock (9771-236-2211)

O Blackdisas: Times year-22-30.6 7 most days,
ends 13 Jun. 81 SO-818-50, engos available.

TOSSAN CAUSE E. MINISTER S. CONST. 1 constant. TORRHY STEELE - WHAT A SHOWN
Musical spectacular with a 23-spring cast.
Prince of White Coventry Stoce. W1 (0771-839 5972) & Lear Sq/For Cur. Mon-Sat 8.0
[4] 3.00, [7] 5.00, each 6 Jan., \$12.90-£25.

THE WHAT IN THE WILLOWS Alan Bouner's version of Grahamer's novel.

Old Vir Waterloo Road, SEI (0171-928 7616)

BR/O Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7:30, [4][7] 2:30, ends 6 Jun. 56:75-624.75. THE WORLD IN SLACK
Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836-2238)

© Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Set 8.00, [3]3.00,[7]4.00,58.50-520

Beyond the West End BESS THEATRE Rains la Hous Pow

BOSH THEATHE Both in Hour Powerful debut from the young Scotish writer David Harmser, Mino-Sar Spin, easts 23 Dec. 29.50, cosses, 56. Shepherds Bush Garen, W12 (0181-743 -3365) & Shepherds Bush. THEATHE UPSTARES, 2017AL CORRET Braiss. Judy Upton's depiction of the bason of violence being passed from father to son. Last performances today 4pm & 7.45pm. E8, mat & opers. £5.

EXHIBITIONS

How West that Sands See Critic's Choice. Mon-Set, 10am-7pm, Sen 12anon-6pm, ends 7 Jan, free. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191) <u>loswich</u>

WOLSEY ANT BALLERY Tuescare Mined media work by six artists.
The Sat 10am-5pm, Sur 2:30pm-4:30pm, ends 14:1am. E.; cones £1.
Christchard Mansion. Christelauch Park.
(01473-213761) At an Phuse: Burge under the flictulus 1539-1945 See Critic's Choice. Mon-Sun Ham-éann (untri Spm The & Wed), ends 21 Jan. ÉS, cones £3.50. Belvedere Road, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/40 Vinterion.

WAREAU HEADERT OF ARTS
Build Buckey See Crear's Choice. Man-See
10am-Spen, earls 25 Jan. 54.50, conce. 25.50.
Burlington House, Proceeding, W1 (0771–459
1438) & Piccadiny Circan/Green Park.

Oxford ASSAULEAN INVESTMA
Latis-Indulus Prat Calludins Prencht drawings from
the 17th-19th conducts and including work by
whenever. Boucher and Secure. The Sar Hamigun. Sim 2pur-igun, ends 17 Dec, free.
Bessunont Street (01865-278000)

COMEDY

COMEST STORE
Bill Bailey, Martin Cryste, Boothby Graffice,
Rudy Lackwood & Dave Spiley, Rought Sym
& Limidaght, Haymarick House, Chemion St (0142):-014433) & Leicester Sq. £10. POP/JAZZ London
Half Benef Lodie entiriets.

Astorie 2 Cher X Rd (0171-434 0403)

Thu Court Road. Tought Tom, 26.50. BURRY HELL AT LYING HARMSENSIMIN Rought 7.30pm, cods 31 Dec, King St (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith, £10-£12-50. BARRY BELLAT LYMC HAM Pulp, Steretch See Critic's Choice, Britism Academy Stockwell Road SW9 (0171-924 9999) BRA-B Britism, 20 Dec. LONDON COMENY PERTIVAL AT Ten, phone for evaluability.
The Stragton Chesic peak rockers.
Tenight 7:30pm, £12.50.
Pendin Lat, Orbeits!, Jeuhann Gothic hard-

INVESTMENT STORES.

KALL BROWNER TO STORES TO ASSOCIATE ST. CORNEL SE FOR SEEDINGS. TO ASSOCIATE ST. S. CORNEL SE FOR SEEDINGS. TO ASSOCIATE ST. S. CORNEL SE FOR SEEDINGS. TO ASSOCIATE ST. S. CORNEL SE FOR SEEDINGS. Som Parts. Chip Prond. WES. (URS. 1-741.2255) - Filminatusenith, 27.50, corner SE FORMS.

CLASSICAL

<u>Croydon</u> Regal Philamantic Strabbles Christones mediey including excerpts from Russian ballet. Sun Spm. 17-612-50. Park Lane (0181-688 9291)

ST JUNE'S
Lorden Advantial Course Flories: See Critic's
Choice. Tooight 7.30pm, 68-E16. Smith Sq.
SW1 (0171-222 1061) - Westminster QUEEN SLIZABETH HALL
Richard Goods See Critic's Choice, Toxight 66-£17 9) South Bank Contre SET

DANCE

<u>Birmingham</u>

Harponolistic Birminghan Bayal Ballet, the Nationalog' See Critic's Choice. Today 2:30pm & 7:30pm, £10-£13, cones available. Hunti St (0121-6227486) London MOTAL OPERA BROOKE Royal Bullet: Toyla Thany's Rossiel Bullet See Critic's Choice. 18, 20 Dec. 3 & 4 Jan. 7.30pm (principals: Mukhamedov/Bussell/ Kansakawa) £1-£24, Covent Garden (0171-304-4000) & Covt Gdn.

prome for awangusy.

Sara Williamana Caypur jungle-tinged sunist.

Thought Span, E9, comes £7.

Buth Whight & Ber land 1970s soul-funit, down

from Florida.

The Rightwis Chaptel Martiet (9171-713 5899)

G Angel, 17-22 Dec. Span, £12, cones £111.

The Batter's Carlstons Purp Highly original and emerciating show for all the family. The Rondo St Sawiour's Road (01225-448831) Thomp 2.30pm de 7.30pm, ench 23 Dec. £6.50, child £4.50.

edur Cookic and SF-Plan Mart Over one Washingtor Color and or you may be buying immered and fully stalls selling and buying American country, stagations and related material.

Methodisi Central Hall Storey's Gate SW1 Park. Today Llam-tym, £1.

International Standarding Complements Popular

equestrian event full of showingping and constrain events.

Obsepit Hammersmith Road W14 (0171-603 3344) © Earls Court/Oyangle, Today 1pm & 7pm, 5un. 1.30pm & 7pm, £9-£29.

AUCTIONS

Bis: Christmas positry sale at the Auction Rouse, Roydon Rosd, Thur (11am). TW Gaze (01379-691306). Gaze (01379-63000). Middepted Dressed pooling at the Tavan Hall, Heislay (10.30mm). Harry Ray (1038-55-6578). Statistically (10.30mm). Harry Ray (1038-55-6578). Statistically (10.30mm). Harry Ray (1038-55-6578). Statistically (10.30mm). General Associous, 63-65 Garran Lane (10.87-870-3009). Statist Whens, bicycles, obsettical goods, perellety and other commercial equipment, Than (11.00m) at the Bristol Associous Rogers. 2a Graville Rd. Ashon (1018-70-3376). Statistical reviews and order timber, builders' equipment, new and order timber, household

Ministry Police stolen and recovered goods, contemporal stocks, builders' equipment, new and used timber, household goods, transtruw (Ham) as the SET Group Auction Centre, Cay Fatts Hading Estate ((19401-871818)). But Victorian bousehold, office and conservatory farming and effects, suchading base bods, shop counters and fittings, filling cubinets, wine, tuday (Ham), Kensington Auction House, Kensangton Place, London Road (01278-837081). ton House, Ecostogon Place, London ton House, Ecostogon Place, London Road (01225-337081). Bettle 300 oil pagnings and with recokers, Wednesday (6.30pm). Abboy Auction Galleries, Lower Lake (01424-772374). Chalam 600-lot end-of-season sale with placets of the pagnetal law.

Datable OUt-lot eld-of-season sale with plenty of general lots, Most furnisure (April, autiques (Spen), Lots Road Galleries, London SW18 (017)-351 7771). Histogram, bischibler Christoner metion of antiques. Victoriera, collectoblet and shoping goods, tomorrow (12 noot) at Greford 198 School, Orderbaliste Crussy Anotion 1988 School, Orderbaliste Crussy Anotion

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rini school, Capequarra Chinay Ancisons
Tunishing Wife, Pre-Christone, and: of 18th19th-commay and latte foreither - cheese,
cabinote, bareanes, Prickey (Harm), Bankerta,
The Partilles (018'0-553'33).
Bayes Wife. Antiquerien and collectors'
books - a Lawis Carroll first edition, a collection of 19th-context Best ettions. Therebooks - a Leich Carroll fint officion, a col-lection of 19th-entury libratrations, Timis-day (1pm). Y Celli Book Austrons, Broad Screet (01497-823179). Screet (01497-823179). Single Carrolling, Street, jovelleys, clocks, col-lectables, moley (3 ison) in the Twen Hall. Jonathan Minesy (0179-831583). Antiquer Trusk Gazzer 6077-920 4957). Generoment Assesson Mean (0171-353 7:00, fox healing 6991-887700).

FAIRS

Hamadi End Histards: Antiques and Collec-tors. Donington Park, Leicenershire, today and sumerrow (Four in One Promotions 01455-273495). Brand Glock and Wagd: 162 stands, Brunel University, Kingstow Lane, Unbridge, tomorrow (01865-834694).

amonow (1180) 454041, Grad kolipus. Cophorne Tara Hotel, Scurs-dale Pisce, of Kensington High Street, tomorrow (Century Antique Faus Ul71-794 33510.

today and tomorrow (Towy Antiques Fairs 0225-314713), The Small Christens Authors Fair; next Friday-Saturday at Westenbirt School, Techney, Gloucestershire (Cooper 01349-661111).

church and carol services

Third Sunday in Advent

CANCENSES CONSTRUCT SAME IC. 9. Mac Marine. Liam Sung Enchante, Mener can inhibe (Dwestlife). MSpm Enchantes, Mener can inhibe (Dwestlife). MSpm Entenang, Throw sensy thy rod (Regusten). Spm Naturby Pany (Campter Estate). A Signa Sermon and Complian, The Rev 20/C. Spect. What MARINE Shan, S. & Sant HC. Them Sung Enchante, Missa haves (Leighten). Canno Renald Meccasive, 11. Men Marina, Pumul in B. Batt. Spm Benarong, Inchance in G., The Rev Palifo Cammignate, Jun St. Michael-in-Bulley Church Carol Servet.

ST PRINTE CONTRIBUTE COMPANY CHAIR MARRIES, I limit STYPE CONTRIBUTE COMPANY CHAIR MARRIES, LIMIT STATE CONTRIBUTE CONTRI Choral Exchance, Mense solemethe (Vlerme), The Province, Sang Bennaring, S. Flobr's sorvice (Dippert), Cannon David Askinson. Westmessirella (Affective Sam, Sum, Sum Mensellows Moraing Prayers, 10, 30am Solemen Mans, Schmbert in G. (Zinn Mans; 130pm Catherdral Parish Carol Storvice: \$30pm, Tyon Mans.

GENEROUSE, UP '122: New Mans.

GENEROUSE, UP '122: New Mansel William Orthodol, Up '123: New Moraing Street, Carolina West Villem Models: 1 from Downe Litturg, Sprander Capatrian Cortect Money, man in Oresel.

Edit States of Carol Mansel of the Newson and Zandon Will Landon SWF, 10, 30 mm Divine Litturgy, Cheral Mansel of the Newson and Zandon Will 11. 30pm 10 mm Carolina Street, Carolina States (Device Litturgy, Technica), London WII. 11. 30pm 10 mm Carolina Street, Carolina States (Device Litturgy, Technica), London WII. 11. 30pm 10 mm Carolina Street, Carolina

denoral.

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Another media encote (Tallin), The Row T. Hillings,
Royal Ranad College Chaptel, Groundelds, SE IR: [Last
Sang Enchanter, O state and no (Cons), The Row Che.

Franck.

Il Bullers by the Names, Byward Street, WCE-11am
same Enchannet, Carten France Delman,
If Sutter, Marganet Street, WJ; Sam Low Mars,
Id-20am Marsain; Proper; Han High Mun, Semilory

G. 20am Marsain; Proper; Han High Mun, Semilory

To Woon; S. Spin Low Mine; days Soleton

Commong and Benestiction, Wigness on E. Dr. C.C.C. S Sainte, Patency Bridge, SWir flage HC; N. Mary Sung Suchardet, C.L. Mary Parelly Enchannet, Spon Reactings Encheckt: (1.30am Rinnity Enchants), (pan Reactings and Carols.

All Study), Langtons Pance, Wir Sam Communious, 11am Humby Servets, The Rev Biec Thee, 6.30am Genes Carol Servise, The Serv Pt Iolin Study Carols, Carols Pt Iolin Study, Charles Wig Charels, Old Cherch Street, SWF-Study Her, 11am Chiffon, The Rev De R. Birry 12.15pp. FIC. 6pm Nine Leatons and Carols. Carola.

Buly Mellin, Bratington Road, SW7: Sum FC, Mr. Jereary Jennings; Usen Christiccia Service, Mr. Tim Stilwell; Sun, 7. Junn Carol Survice, The Rev Sundy Mr.

Buly Thing; Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8. Julean

Encharles; Ham Christ Encharies, TW Rev L. E.M.

Birty Huntz, Somme Street, over in Accume 1154, about Song Eachards, Collegibin registal Contell. The Recott.

R. Bethings's, Aldgaste, ECS: 10.10am Starg Encharist, The Reve Belon Lac.

R. Bethings's, Peter Street, EC4: Linux Chertal Metrins and Encharist, Darke in A misor. Canon, John Ontor, al. Open Canon John Contes, Allyses Canoni Bennous, James 1ee Saw 1990, Canon John Contes, Switz, Linux School Chemistry, School Contes, Switz, 10am HC, Hann Stong Encharist, Samplon in F, Fr Jell.

R. Chainstell Bannet, Strand, WC2: Harn St. Direction-pher's Fellowship Carol Service, Switz: 10am HC, Hann Stong Encharist, Strander's Street, NW1: 10.30cm Hanning, Honey South, WC2: Hann Stong Beckmarks; Allowship, Honey South, WC2: Hann Stong Encharist; Honey South, WC2: Hann Stong Encharist; The Switzer, South Street, New York, Street, Switzer, Swit

St. Hargarette, Westminster Abbeyt: Unex Song Bachentis, Many O Imagemin mysterina (Pontecel, The Rev Beary Femica.

Br. Barty, Regent's Park Road, NWI: Sam HC., U.Sam Flemby Communica; Ham Song Eachering, Short veryon (Bathes), The Her Anthony Show.

St Blattle-in-disp-Halds, WC2: Sam HC. St. Sim Endeated, The Her Herster (Bathes), The Her Anthony Show.

St Blattle-in-disp-Halds, WC2: Sam HC. St. Sim Endeated, The Rev Benshed Schinsoname; I Libon Wester (Bathes), The Work of the Court Berbert, 2-Spin Chinese Cavel Service, 3-Spin Benshed, Verlage (Sate, WP: Sam BHC; V. Dom Parks Endeated, The View, Hally Sam Court Mains, The Rev F. Gellt; 12-Spin HC; 6-Spin Service of Nine Leatenes and Carols.

The Rev F. Gellt; 12-Spin HC; 6-Spin Service of Nine Leatenes and Carols.

St. Harry Manhaghia, Kenningson Park Road, SET I; V. Shim Moneing Priver; Ulans Frinch Mess, Mother Park Works, Am Carols Service; Spin Mess, St. Harry Bathes, Service and Solician Basediction.

Residence of Pollisant, Gon Low Mass, Residence Carol Service, Spin Mess, Parks Bathes, Nines Berein, Parks Backette, Primanas Hill, MWS: Sam HC; Ill Jöhen Parks Benchetek, Mina berein Christian Carol Service, Lapudon van der Pump, Spin Christian Carol Service, Residence of Pulling Carol Service, Spin Mess, Residence of Pulling Carol Service, Spin Mess, Residence of Pulling Carol Service, Spin HC; Ill Jöhen Parks Backeteke, Mina berein Greaton, The Residence of Pump, Spin Christian Carol Service, Residence of Pump, Spin Christ

Lymion van der Pumpt span Christisch Carel Service.

38. Widmand und 18. Angelin, Bedford Park. Wit: Barn

18. Hidmand und 18. Angelin, Bedford Park. Wit: Barn

18. Hidmand Parkh Bestandyt, Stilpen Bestandy.

18. Bishand's, Cheiter Squan, SWI: Hill. Som Chaideer's Flaff Houre (Imm BC, The Rev Cherles Marnhant: Jan Cool Service. The Rev Cherle Marnhant: Part Barn Square. SWI: 8 alson, Sam BC: Ham
Soften Bestands. Short service (Hillin). The Rev

David Jones.

18. Paller's, Eman Square. SWI: 8 alson, Sam BC: Hom
Makiture Perce (Lames), Fr WE Repres (Allens in In
Makiture Perce (Lames), Fr WE Repres (Allens Corof Service.

19. Patholy, Streathers. SWI: 8 alson Love Mass;

10. Ston Softens Man; 6 allen Cherl Love Mass;

10. Ston Softens Man; 6 allen Cherl Love
Mass; Hom Softens Pan; 6 allen Sung Man, Mass

of St Peier (Wilson), The Rev Anthony Sonations

10. Hand Softens Pan; 6 and 10 a

Cây Bungia, Holborn Vindret, BC1: 10:30 nm Carol Service, Dr David Pillecon. Chaines fingiboths Church, King's Rosel, SV2: 1 inm BC, The Roy JL. Durin and Man Adule Birdt from Christiagio Service at Victoria Merkodolis Church, Marie Winnel Historial to Church, Wr. 1 (Dura BCC. Dura-ald Super; Illum Carol Service; 6.30 nm, Yvenne Walk-

and stoned, particular Clarich, WI: 10m, HC. Donand Stoper, Ham Card Service, Gallyon, Young Walker, Manthanter Cantral Hall (Michochet), SWI: 11mm
HC. The Raw De Peter Geneve, 6. Riyan, Canadichight
Canad Service, The Raw De Peter Geneve,
Indicated Bassish, Bill Clausel, Rostlyn Hdl, HampCanadichet, Bassish, Bill Clausel, Rostlyn Hdl, HampRostlyn Bassish, Bill Clausel, Rostlyn Hdl, HampThe Row Bassish, Bill Clausel, Rostlyn Hdl, HampThe Raw Peter Lonelt,
Pandington Clausel, Hame, NW: 11mm Festival, St Mark's Clausel, Cand Maryschone Rosed, WiLinn, The Raw Pat Crawshaw,
R Ambursh 1886, Forgun Lane, NW: 11mm Festival of Nine Lemons and Carols.
R Ambursh 1886, Forgun Lane, NW: 11mm Festival of Nine Lemons and Carols.
R John's Bill, Northwood: 10. Don Macrosing Service,
G. Slopen Hexang Service.
R Jones 1887, Northwood: 10. Don Macrosing Service,
G. Stone Hexand, Genetics Stone, EC's
Sweek H. Charles, Lancon Briddenica Lanis Mans.
S Amas 2. R Appent (Lonbeama), Genetics Stone, EC's
Linn Clausel Hc. Rev Box Benefit Heatt waHouse, Ton. Bach User, Sander, Schmalen,
Sweek Langer (Lonbeama), Genetics Stone, HC.
Schmidt, The Rev Fan D. Schmalen,
Smell Clauser, Wei H. General Service, The Rev Paul
Hedden,
Weithelmatter Clausel (Independent Economics),
Section HC, 11mm Morning Service, The Rev Paul
Hedden,
Weithelmatter Clausel (Independent Economics),
Rendelington Control Sweet, Sanderbury ASection, HC. 21mm Morning Service, The Rev Paul
Heatter,
Manthalanter Clause (Independent Economics),
Rendelington Control Reputer (Ethichen, Sanderbury ASection, HC, 21mm, The Rev Burtier Ethichen, Sanderbury Cappen
Stone, W.C. 21mm, The Rev Burtier Ethichen, S. Spin

Account Hornstein Gentral Empliet Chance, Suchestury Av-ofice, WCE 11sm, The Rev Burrie Litchert, 6.30pm Randy Carol Service.

ST PHALE SCHIEBMAN: 34 December, Just Chrot-me Carol Sevice and the Bleading of the Crit. http://www.crit.com/com/crit. 20 December, 4.0pm Carols and Candides concert. 24 December, 3-pm Cathoria Carol Service. 1973-1988-1988 (Christiana); 17 December, 3.30pm Cathoria Pariat Carol Service. Change Sayes, St. James's Palace: 17 December. 11,15cm Carol Service.

The Bream's Change of the Sayes, Savay Halt: 24 December. 11,15cm Carol Service.

The Bream's Change of the Sayes, Savay Halt: 24 December, 11cm Change Service.

Changes Period Service of Latence and Carols, Change Sayes, Hampton Coare: 17 December, 13 Proc. Panton Sayes, Hampton Coare: 17 December, 13 Proc. Panton Sayes, Hampton Coare: 17 December, 13 Proc. Change Street, House, Sayes and Carols, Changes Sayes, House, Sayes, Will: 24 December, 11cm, Williagon Sayes, Sayes, Will: 25 December, 11cm, 6cm Frankel of Lenson and Carols, 24 December, 11,15pm Carols of Lenson and Carols, 24 December, 11,15pm Carols at the Manger.

Carol Service.
Carol Service, Only Church Street, SW2: 17 December, por Nine Languet and Carols.
Sulpha Bid Church, Only Church Street, SW2: 17 December, por Nine Languet and Carols.
Sulph Biddig, Strongton Rond, SW7: 17 December, 500, 7,30pm Carol Service.
Sulph Biddig, Stone Street, SW1: 21 December, 7,30pm
Carol Service. 25 December, 11am Song Bacherset
with Carols. Carol Service. 25 Ducember, 11am Song Backeriest with Carols. 84 Allan the Marty, H. Burn, E.C.: 26 December, 1.15ym School Carol Service; 7 January, J. 30ym Carols before the Socransent.

R. Rédéri, Phoet Street, E.C. & 17 December, 6. Myom Frensons, followed by Britansh Cetembory of Carolis.

32 December, 6. Julyan A. Festival of Mine Lessons and Carolis.

33 Chamast House, Strand, W.C.: 17 December, 11am St. Chamast House, Strand, W.C.: 17 December, 1 and St. Chamast House, Strand, W.C.: 17 December, 1 and 1 Circl Service.

R. James Senfelshingthe, Gerfick Hill, EC4: 17 December, 7pm Advent Carol Service, 17 December, 17pm Advent Carol Service, 18 Jahra, Strasford Breatman, E15: 17 December, 6.30pm Carol Service for nil-the Fennily. 19 December, 1.10pm Lanchismo Carol Service, 19 December, 6.30pm Carol Service, 19 December, 6.30pm Carolana Carols, 19 Habrit, 8.40pm Fentival of Lancota and Carols, 18 Habrit, 8.40pm Fentival of Lancota and Carols, 18 Habrit, 8.40pm Fentival, 20 December, 6.30pm Nine Lancota and Carols, 25 December, 6.30pm Fendy Carol Service, 21 December, 6.30pm Fendy Carol Service, 25 December, 6.30pm Carolana Carol Service, 20 December, 6.30pm Fendy Carol Service, 25 December, 10 Service, 25 December, 10 December, 6.30pm Service of Nine Lancota and Carols, 18 Habry Madeia, Vinning Gate, Will 19 December, 6.30pm Service of Nine Lancota and Carols, 19 Habrit, 19 December, 6.30pm Service, 19 December, 6.30pm Carolana, 19 December, 6pm Advent Carola by Condition, 18 December, 6pm Advent Carola by Carolana, 19 December, 6pm Advent Carola and Society, 19 December, 6pm Advent Carola Service, 19 Habrit, Canola Service, 19 Habrit, 19 December, 7pm Carol Service, 19 Paterna, 19 Habrit, 19 December, 19 Habrit Group Court (Church of Scottend), Ruser's Street, WC2: 17 Describer, 6.30pm Service of Nata Legions and Carols. Our Lady of the Assemption, Whewek Storet, W1: 24 December, IL Topes Muss with Carola. 31 December, Ham Man with Carola.

Chy Tempin, Hofborn Vladuct, EC1: 17 December. IU.Stam Carol Service. Hoda Street Hofballet Charch, W1: 17 December. glosia Street Hotseams, american Lian Carol Service Westralgater General Rail (Methodaet), SWI: 17 De-Mattalgater General Rail (Methodaet), SWI: 17 De-Westbashe Central Ball (McChedart), SW1: 17 De-cember, 6, Myn Chard Calpt Carol Service. 28 Australia 1985, Frograd Lune, NW2: 17 Decem-lett. Hun Ferbris of Lemons and Carols. 25 Janus 28 August (Latteran), Greckman Sport, ECC 24 December. Sport Barols, Sport Sport, Standard, Carolia 1995, Charlespin. Bismanium, Cantral Supplies Charols, Shafterium, Assense, WC2: 17 December, 6,30per Insulfy Carol Server. Entitials, Lundan ECC; 18 Decem-ber, 8 Dynn Carol Courser in 3th of the Mental Health Foundation.

Going Places Gift Vouchers



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The Company

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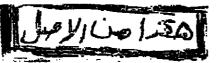
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by Gerard Gilbert

ruth belind the Jony Blair leadership and perform the Jony Blair leadership and property to the Land concludes this expellent series (33050).

289 Dalmatous 9-30pm C4. Disney is 239 transatious 9:30pm CA. Disney is committy shooting its tive action version of 101 Belimations in this country and needs loads of shorty pupples. The British Balication Club is not happy (27586). The Bage Three Story 9:45pm 8BC2 (above), 25 years after the Sun went topless, the girls tell their stories (535050).

The Deprinsiday Letters 8.40am R4. Sir Cospin Tickell puts current fears of envi-ronmental cities into the context of past fears of the end of the world. The Story of Dr Doofittle 4.45pm R4. Read by Alan Bernett. Tempting, Isn't it?



Film: The Man in the White Suit (Alexander Mackendrick 1951 UK)

2:25pm C4. Alec Guinness discovers an Indestructible fabric that doesn't need cleaning. Classic Ealing satire (466877). Omnibus 10.20pm BBC1 (above). Now the shock has worn off, a more considered appraisal of Peter Cook (229161). Film: Five Easy Pieces (Bob Rafelson 1970 US) 11.20pm BBC2. Jack Nicholson's most complex performance to date, by a mile (648703).

Paging Doctor Love 7.20pm R4. Anthony Clare analyses cinema's obsession with psychiatry, and introduces the four archetypes - Dr Dippy, Dr Know-All, Dr Evil and the supremely desirable Dr



Film: The Ladykillers (Alexander Mack-endrick 1955 UK) 2.20pm C4. Cark Eaiing masterpiece about a gang of thwarted

Do Vampire Bats Have Friends? 9pm C4. Do non-human animals think - and, if so, what about? (9117): Britannia 9.30pm BBC1 (above). Life on board the Royal Yacht (17049). I'm Not Like Everybody Else – the World of Ray Davies and the Kinks 11.20pm

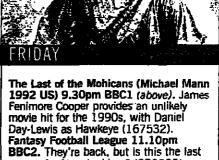
BBC2. Fulsome profile (842865). A Hoist Evening 7pm R3. The high point of a short Hoist season (which culminates on Christmas Day with the opera The Perfect Fool); tonight's programme includes his own recording of his alba-



Secret Lives: Che Guevara 9pm C4 (above). How did an asthmatic middleclass Argentinian become an icon for 1960s revolution? (5570). Gary Larson's Tales from the Far Side

10pm BBC2. Everybody's favourite pocket cartoonist-cum-birthday card illustrator becomes animated (61624). A Private Function (Malcolm Mowbray 1984 UK) 10pm C4. Socially acute, Alan Bennett-scripted comedy of postwar rationing (366995).

Wish Me Luck as You Wave Me Goodbye 7.20pm R4. Old-world charmer Harry Thompson looks at the modern way of death, from funeral supermarkets to cryogenic suspension. A nice antidote to seasonal cheer.



season for New Laddery? (879990).
Film: Annie Hall (Woody Allen 1977 US) 12.25am BBC1. It sparked a silly hat fashion, but great comedy from Allen and Keaton nonetheless (5966743). Print the Legend 10am R4 FM. Last in

the series looks at how modern warfare – cold, hot and apocalyptic - has been treated by Hollywood. Turns of the Century 4.20pm R3. Up to date with a tribute to Victoria Wood.

Sunday Television and Radio

tross, The Planets.

6.25 Wonderful Life (Sidney J Furie 1964 UK). Cliff Richard and the Shadows decide to shoot their own movie in the Canary Islands (92633307).

by Robert Hanks

8.15 This Multimedia Business (S) (6273098). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (33611). 9.30 Promise of His Glory. Hymns from the Church of St John the Baptist in Bromsgrove (S)

(6844765). 10.15 See Hear! Christmas Special (S) (450475). 10.45 Suenos – World Spanish (1703611). 11.00 The 11th Hour (S) (43543).

12.00 CountryFile (S) (77611). 12.30 News; Cartoon (54943104).

12.45 The ice Princess. Gorgeous, pourting sketting champion Katarine Witt gives a contemporary interpretation of Cinderella (796949).

1.45 Euro 96 Draw. Live coverage of the draw for next year's European Championship Finals from the International Convention Centre in Birmingham. Introduced by Desmond Lynam (S) (785833). 2.45 EastEnders Omnibus (S) (4281104).

4.10 Auntie's Christmas Crackers (8094291). 4.20 The Bookworm (S) (9407494), * 4.50 The Clothes Show (1094340).

5.15 The Great Antiques Hunt - Christmas Special (S) (7993253). *

6.00 News; Weather (991524). * 6.20 Local News (518340). 6.25 Songs of Praise. Carols from Cirencester (S)

(546949). * 7.00 Just William. William gets the yuletide spirit in the concluding slice of naughtíness (S)

(6727). * 7.30 The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad (David Zucker 1988 US), Big, fat goofy laughs in this terrific slapstick, surreal comedy starring stoneraced Leslie Nielsen as L1 Frank Drebin blundering his way through a daft-as-youplease plot about drugs and a plot to assassing the Queen. Co-stars Priscilla Presley and OJ Simpson (S) (375524). *

8.50 News; Weather (488475). *
9.05 The Vicar of Dibley (R) (S) (661727). *
9.35 Cold Comfort Farm. See Preview, p28 (R) (S)

11.15 Heart of the Matter. Antenatal testing for genetic disorders (S) (338765). 11.55 Golf. The Johnnie Walker Championship from

Tryall Resort, Jamaica (S) (142543).

1.25 Weather (2747876). To 1.30am.

REGIONS. Wales: 1.25am News; Weather. NI:
12.45pm Now You're Talking. 1.10 Our Roving.
Reporter. 1.20 The Phil Silvers Show. 1.25

BBC2

11.40 Star Trek (R) (4380475).

7.30 Children's BBC: Tales of the Tooth Fairies (4591307). 7.35 The Adventures of Skippy (7527765). 8.00 Playdays (5142524). 8.20 elix the Cat (6261253).

8.35 Jackanory. Gary Oisen reads (S) (8283036). 8.50 Children's BBC: Bitsa (1727678). 9.05 The Animals of Farthing Wood (4828611), 9.35 Skeleton Warriors (4265630), 9.55 Travel Bug (1127727). 10.25 Grange Hill (2738272). 10.50 The Queen's Nose (9838456). 11.15 Weekend Break (S) (1654052).

12.30 The Sunday Show (S) (9818920). 1.15 The O Zone. Boyzone shoot their latest video (R) (S) (48738901). 30 Regional Programmes (14630).

2.00 The Inn of the Sbith Happiness (Mark Robson 1958 UK). English servant girl Ingrid Bergman brings Christianity to World War Two

4.30 Ski Sunday. The men's downhill from Val Gardena (S) (6409475). 5.10 Rugby Special. Highlights from England vs Western Sarnoa (S) (3041611).

6.10 The Trials of Life. The extraordinary length: animals will go to to mate (R) (S) (296307). *
7.00 On the Road Again. Simon Dring reaches India in

his search for the old hippie trail (S) (4369). * 7.30 The Wilderness Years. The Labour Party redefines itself under Neil Kinnock (S) (83843). *

8.30 The Money Programme. The changing face of the toy market (695475). * 9.10 Hello and Goodbye. Memorable moments from chat shows, according to this Danny Baker filler

(R) (916814). 9.30 The Mrs Mertion Show. Lord Lichfield, Carol Vordenman and Barbara Windsor are the faux-.chat show guests (S) (35123). *. 10.00 Easy Rider (Dennis Hopper 1969 US).

bikers Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper set out to do their own stoned thing. Turned Jack Nicholson - a southern lawyer they meet along the way into a star (14814). *
11.30 Born to Be Wild – the Story of Easy Rider. Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda and others tell the

tale (37494).

12.00 EIEH Hell's Angels on Wheels (Richard Rush 1967 US). Jack Nicholson, a drifter called Poet working in a gas station, joins a gang of Hell's Angels but clashes with the gangleader (503437). * To 1.40am.

REGIONS. Wales: 1.30pm Welsh Lobby.5.10 Scrum 5. NI: 1.30pm Country Times. 5.10 Rugby

Special from Northern Ireland.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (70630).

8.00 Disney Club (S) (96572678). * 10.15 Link (S) (7488475). *

10.30 This Sunday. A discussion on the existence of angels, some special Jewish recipes for Hannukah and, at 11.00am, Morning Worship from Timperley Methodist Church, Greater Manchester (S) (94543). * 12.30 Crosstalk (19185).

1.00 News, Weather (48746920). 1.10 40 Years of ITN. Archive clips and anecdotes from past and present newscasters (5191104). 12.00 Euro 96: The Draw – Live, Bob Wilson on

location at Birmingham's International Convention Centre (1583807). 2.45 The London Lecture. Jeremy Isaacs concentrate on the positive aspects of the capital (3198-475).

3.35 Opening Shot (S) (1460746). 4.05 The Sunday Match (5289340). 5.05 The Practice (2331017).

5.35 Jane Asher's 12 Days of Christmas. Dishes include duck with prune, thyme and lemon stuffing (706807).

6.05 London Tonight (271272). *
6.20 News, Weather (257727). *
6.30 Schoffeld's Quest. If you're still interested, the last in this series updates earlier stories - like the search for the final resting place for King Arthur, and the attempt to lift the gypsy curse allegedly put on Birmingham City Football Club (S) (104)

7.00 The Coronation Street Party. See Preview, p28 8.00 The Beatles Anthology. Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, and all that. See Preview,

p28 (S) (6678). * 9.00 London's Burning. A big car crash, and opening night at Bayleaf's restaurant (S) (6814).

10.00 News, Weather (595630). * 10.15 Bullitt (Peter Yates 1968 US). Steve McQueen and that famous car-chase sequence. Not a lot else to it, really. Robert Vaughan is the unconvincing baddie, and Jaqueline Bisset the romantic interest (95940217).

12.20 London Stage 95. Sheridan Morley does his Barry Norman impersonation (6494401).

12.55 Sledge Hammer (2469166).
1.25 Hollywood Report (R) (S) (9514321).
2.00 Cue the Music Cue Van Halen (1322627). 2.55 Live from London. Sandie Shaw (9119437).

4.05 Opening Shot (R) (90264895). 4.30 Highdays and Holidays (54706383). 4.55 Travel Trails.North Wales (1878857). 5.30 News (16654). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.00 Blitz! (R) (9884-179). 6.55 The Herbs (R) (7923727). 7.10 Lift Off (R) (S) (4903104).

7.40 The Great Bong (S) (7061982). 7.55 The Baby-Sitters Club (3005901). 8.30 Where on Earth Is Carmen Sandiego? (S)

(7311456). 8.55 Exosquad (S) (7323291), 9.20 Running the Halls (R) (S) (8533475). *

9.45 The Pink Panther Show (S) (7700123). 10.00 Aaahh!!!! Real Monsters! (7496494). 10.15 Saved by the Bell (2734456). * 10.40 Wise Up. Young people report (S) (8620543). 11.15 Rawhide. The drovers plan a mid-summer Xmas

party (407543).

12.15 Mission Impossible. A chemical warfare project

is being planned against the free world. The IMF to the rescue (780388). 1.15 Football Italia. Lazio vs Sampdoria (69135681). 3.30 Butter, Jane Horrocks, Richard E Grant and Helena Bonham-Carter in a short about a woman's obsession with food (9013630).

3.50 (Alexander Mackendrick 1948 UK). Ealing cornedy classic about a mythical Hebridean island in wartime, whose nhabitants - parched of whisky - discover 50,000 bottles of the stuff shipwrecked on their shores. Basil Radford is the laird they must get around (276765). *

5.25 News, Weather (6539098). 5.30 Hollyoaks. Last Monday's episode of the teen soap (R) (S) (253). *

6.00 The Persuaders! Danny and Brett help a Russian Grand Duchess establish her right to a collection of jewels (25746). *

7.00 Equinox. The "over-unity devices" which may hold the key to unlimited energy supplies derived from water. See Preview, p28 (8272). * 8.00 Storm Chasers. Recycled Equinox about enthusiasts who chase tornados around the

American Mid-West (R) (S) (7920). * 9.00 Intelligent The Last Emperor (Bernado Bertolucci 1987 China/It). The epic, sumptuously photographed story of Chinese Emperor Pu Yi, from living god to humble gardener in the

People's Republic. Peter O'Toole plays Pu Yi's tutor (814562). *

12.00 Holiday Snaps. Recycled Red Zone documentary about members of Location Photography Club, on location in the Algarve with glamour models Sandy, Rachel and Maria (R) (46895).

12.30 Marie in the City (Marquise LaPage 1987 Can). An abused 13-year-old girl runs away from home and befriends a prostitute. Any songs? (3658037). To 1.50am.

ITV/Regions

AMELIE
As Landon except: 12.30pm Diammes (19165) 2.00
Euro 96 (1553207), 2.45 kpc. Off (96549827) 5.10
RAF Falcons (230389), 5.40 Pricts Finish (156548)
10.15 Finish False Winness (845456) 12.05am
Ditemmas (3367075), 12.30am Short Story Cristia
(746692) 1.05am Film Aloha Bebby and Pose
(713128), 2.40am The Album Show (2437362)
3.40am Hollywood Report (74326012) 4.05am The
(had Show (9209925) 5.00-5.30am De Medici Fattien (82234).

The TES/DRISHRE
As Landon except: 12.25pm Yar's The Real Ghostuster (5.597949) 2.45 Film: Spring and Port Vine (5.5625036) 4.30 Fine: The Famous Five (6.59) Yar's. The World in Our Gardens (5.59), 5.00 Rechard Winley (22.76-755) 1.015 Filmer (47.75-24) 11.10 New Yestons: (91.40-77) 11.40 Our Playth (97.22-91). 12.10am American (13.60-65), 1.05am Zaro Divian Den (27.62-708) 1.10am Film: Petichaan (21.11-45-7), 3.50 Profile (81.87), 4.15-5.30am Jobfinder (61.52-470).

CERRAL
As London except: 2.45pm The Central Match - Use
1423709201, 5.05 Winning Sport (23370717: 5.35 Iff's Your Short (443185) 10.15 Heartland (932-15);
10.45 Fillim B1 Stryker (17733814) 12.30am Fillim Parampata (99746215), 3.15am Cug the Muse (402012), 4.15am Inshinder (5705031), 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (1845296).

HTV As Lundon except: 12.25pm West: Balket Box (5271907). Water: Prengume Dary (5.71307). 2.45 West: The Shape of Thing (712727). Water: West Agends (712727). States: West Agends (712727). Water: West Mesternan Revorted (702340). Water: Gardinang Time (702340). 3.45 West: West Matter Plus (790765). Antiques Iral (771307). Water: Socret Sunday (790765). 4.45 West: Antiques Iral (771307). Water: Socret Sunday (790765). Water: Murder: She Worte (771527). Water: Telyphonan (771527). 12.25am Film: Uphill All the Way (5.79476). 2.05am Hollywood Report (6.64347). 2.35am Gue the Masse: (2067447). 3.35am Pop. Profile: (575-0128). 3.50am Film: The Magniforant Two (336-70). 5.25-5.30am Night: Shift (5844989).

MERIDIAY
As London except: 12.30pm Seven Days (5542962): 2.45
Football (761253): 3.45 Grazs Rook Christmas Specials
(701611): 4.15 Charwell (7.16036): 4.45 Annayes Trail
(717307): 5.15 Child's Eve (707920): 5.45 Behand the
Christmas Curran (706291): 10.15 Mexician Audio
(732499): 11.15 The Pro-1280562): 11.40 Beyond Resson (972291): 12.10 pm Murde, She Worde (2872079):
1.05am Film: Aloha Bobby and Rese (7.37289): 2.40am
The Album Show (3437988): 3.40am Hollywood Repon
(74330012): 4.05am The Chart Show (7200225): 5.005.30am De Medica kritchen (820337).

WESTGUISTITY
As Landon except: 2.45pm Football (712**17): 3.15 Fair's Fair (702**340): 3.45 South Crofte (7016**11): 4.15 Fairs, long David (§7865**1 10.15 Film: Class: Action (96065185): 12.25am Film: Until All the Way (779-77): 2.05am Hollywood Report (6-16-37): 2.35am Cue the Music (2087-47): 3.35am Pop Profile (575-40728): 3.50am Film: The Magnificent Ivo (836-77): 5.25-5.30am Right Shift (5844988):

S4C.
As C4 except 8.50am Rumming the Halts (732.950° 9.15 Wise Up (452.833° 9.45 Movewarch (4511.04°), 10.15 Halticoaks (443.851 10.45 New Cames masses (442.95 11.15 The Averages (407.5-3), 1.15pm Roward a Roward (7207.45°), 1.45 Rap (361.956.62° 2.10°) footh further (4376.340°), 3.10 Gwyll Mahlet (1957.959.32), 250.500 Dechrau Caru Dechrau Cammol (1907.), 5.30 Patrol V Cern (471.835.65°), 7.25 Tavio (551.307), 8.20 Lleftoy (62.85-33), 9.20 Santh Ar Y Sul (730.05), 9.40 San Sul-tan (63.077), 10.00 Films Rush (950.247-77, 12.15-2.05am Film: A Child Too Many (23.0079).

Radio

Radio 1 07.6-99.8Mats FMD

CV 16-25 BME NW
7-100am Kewn Greening 10.00 Dave
Pearce 2.00 Sout on Sunday 4.00 UK
Top 40 7-00 Interactive Futures: Surfing
for Love 8.00 Radio 1 Rock Show
10.00 Andy Kershaw 12.00 Mark Tonderai 4.00-6.30am Clive Warren Radio 2

7.00am Don Maclean 9.05 Michael As-7.00am Don Mactean 9.05 Michael Aspel 10.30 Hayes on Sunday 12.00
Desmond Carrington 2.00 Benny Green
3.00 Dick Bentley: Entertainer 4.00
Chris Stuart's Piano Parlour 4.30 Sing
Something Simple 5.00 Frank Topping
7.00 Lord Healey 8.30 Sunday Hali
Hour 9.00 Alan Keith 10.00 Brandreth's Christmas Pudding 12.05 Steve
Madden 3.00-6.00am Alex Lester

7.00am Sacred and Profess. . . 8.55 Choice of Three. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning.

1.2.15 Music Matters.
 1.00 Christmas Across the World. A ave celebration of Christmas presenting concerts from eight countries. The celebration begins in Greece and includes Byzantine religious and secular spice.

lar songs.

2.00 Belgum. Florian Heyerick conducts two Christmes pieces by the 18th-certury Belgan composer Francois-Joseph Gossec. Suite de Noels and the oratorio La Nativite. 3.00 Germany, Advent and Christmas music by two Baroque German mas-ters. Nicolaus Bruhns: Non komm der Heiden Heitand. Heinrich Schutz: The Christmas Story, Saarbrucken Chamber Chonis, Ensemble La Fence/Georg Grun. Fenice/Georg Grun. 4.00 Russie. Chemis of the Russian Or-

thodax church. 5.00 Slovenia. Traditional Christmas music from several parts of the coun-

6.00 Norway, Traditional Norwegian Omistmas music from the Heddal Stave Church, Oslo. 7.00 The Sunday Play: The Merry Wives of Windsor. By William Shakespeare, with music by Stephen

9.00 Christmas Across the World. The celebration resumes at the Metitias Church in Budapest, Hungary in-cludes works ranging from medieval chart to Liszt organ music. 10.00 USA, A selection of spintuals and other American Christmas songs, performed by giee class from More-house and Spelman colleges in Atlenta, Georga. 11.00 Chamber Music or Waste Paper?. 11.15-12.30am Record Review.

Choice

Radio 3 is dominated by Christmas Across the World (1-7pm, 9jaunty introduction to Russian satirists the Shargorodsky Brothers.

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: The Gambler's Funeral. By Earl Lovelace. 12.48 Shipping. 1.00am As World Service.

(1/5).
12.15 (FM) Desert Island Discs.
12.55 (FM) Weather.
1.00 (FM) The World This Weekend. 1.55 Shipping. 2.00 (LM) Test Match Special. 2.00 (FM) Gardeners' Question Time. 2.30 (FM) The Classic Serial: Barnaby Rudge. By Charles Dickens. (3/3). 3.30 Pick of the Week.

4.15 Analysis. 5.00 News; La Mia Ralia. (2/4). 5.30 Poetry Please! (2/2). 5.50 Shipping. 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Letters from Ireland. (2/6). 6.30 Samovars and Cucleo Clocks. 7.00 Children's BBC Radio 4: Peter Pan. By J M. Barrie. (3/4). 7.30 A Good Read. 8.00 (PM) The Natural History Pro-

Radio 4

6.55 Weather

62.494.EMB. [19.10]

7.00 News. 7.10 Sunday Papers.

6.00am News. 6.10 Something Understood

7.10 Sunday Papers.
7.15 The Living World.
7.40 Sunday.
8.50 The Week's Good Cause.
8.55 Weather.
9.00 (FM) News.
9.00 (FM) Sunday Papers.
9.15 (FM) Letter from America.
9.30 (FM) Morning Sewica

9.30 (FM) Morning Service. 10.15 (FM) The Archers. 11.15 (FM) Mediumwave.

grame. 8.00 (DW) Suenos - World Spanish. 8.45 (LW) The French Experience. 9.15 (194) Short Stories in French. Le Petit Fur, by Guy de Maupassant.

8.30 (FM) Strong Impressions. (3/6). 9.00 (FM) Vietnam Revisited. (2/2). 9.30 (LW) Walter, There's a Fly in My Gazpacho. 9.30 (FMI) Costing the Earth. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 Medicine Now. 10.45 Eureka. 11,15 in Committee

11pm). Stuck in the middle is The Merry Wives of Windsor (left) (7pm R3), with Freddie Jones as Faistaff and Miriam Margolyes as Mistress Page. Alternatively, Samovars and Cuckoo Clocks (6.30pm R4) is a

Radio 5

Radio 5
(623, 999/bb WM)
6.05em Straight Up 6.30 Bnan Hayes
at Breekfast 9.05 Sunday with Mair
11.35 Special Assignment 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 The Big Byte 1.05
Hold the Front Page 1.35 You Cannot
Be Serious! 2.05 Gary Lineker's Sunday Sport 6.05 Jim and the Doc 7.00
News Extra 7.35 The Acid Test 8.05
Head to Head 8.35 Word Up! 9.05
Deltyn Worldwide 10.05 Two Takes of
a City 10.35 Crime Desk 11.00 Night
Edra 12.05 Up All
Night 5.00 Morning Reports

Classic FM (100)-161/5Mk/RI(6.00em Serah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Ro-mance. 12.00 Celebrity Choice. Paul Callian talks to Tommy Steele. 1.00 Alan Mann. 3.00 Masterclass. August Marin. 3.00 Mosterclass. Mendelseohn: Symphony No 4 (Italian Symphony). 4.00 Robert Booth. 7.00 Book Browse. 8.00 Classic FM Evening Concert. Telemann: Festive Suite in A. Purcell: I will give thanks unto the Lord. Amold: Flute Concerto. Corelli: Suite for two Trumpets. Back: Orchestral Suite No 2 in B minor. Holst: Two Psalms. 10.00 Howard's Wesk. 12.00 Andre Leon. 4.00-6.00am Mark Griffishs.

Yirgin Radio (1215, 1197-1250kg 489-105-2861; FIB 5.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Graham Dene 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Howard Pearce 2,00-6.00am Robin Banks World Service

109Min 1904 The State of the Month of the Mo Red Dwarf 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Eu-

Satellite

7.00am Hour of Power (21765). 8.00 Ghoul-Lashed (649348). 10.30 Shoot! (37017). 11.00 Postcards from the Hedge (90307). 1.00 The Hit Mix (90307), 1,00 The Hit Mix (65388), 2,00 The Dukes of Haz-zard (67659), 3,00 Star Trek (67272), 4,00 WWF (86307), 5,00 Great Escapes (2307), 5,30 Power Rangers (2253), 6,00 The Simpsons (2494), 6,30 The Simpsons (3746), 7,00 Beverly Hitls 90210 (19123), 8,00 Star Test (95642), 9,00 Star Hits 90210 (19123). 8.00 Star Trak (95543). 9.00 Highlander (15307). 10.00 Renegade (18494). 11.00 LA Law (99938). 12.00 She-Wolf (22876). 1.00 Comic Strip Live (84578). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Loop Red (7987211).

Long Play (7987741). SAY MOVIES 6.00am Showcase (23746). 8.00 A Perfect Couple (1979) (41611). 10.00 Meteor (1979) (41611), 10.00 Meltor (1979) (71949), 12.00 One Million Years BC (1966) (64562), 2.00 Jane's House (1993) (17386), 4.00 Taking Liberty (1994) (81587123), 5.50 Octopussy (1983) (68759104), 8.00 The Piano (1993) (91727), 10.00 Wardock (1993) (474017), 11.40 The Merie Streut (516550) The Movie Show (516659). 12.10 Husbands and Wives (1992) (760895). 1.55 Crackers (1984) (5684857). 3.25-6.00am With Hostile Intent

(1993) (49458550).

MOVE CHARGE. 6.00am Only When I Lart (1968) (21388). 8.00 Rover Dangerfield (1992) (49253). 10.00 Wind (1992) (62291). 12.00 Parls Holiday (1958) (62104). 2.00 Final Days of Butch and Sundance (1993) (913524). 3.35 Wind (1992) (53905388). 5.45 The Remains of the Day (1993) (68749727). 8.00 Look Who's (88/49/27). A.O. Look Who S Talking Now (1993) (99369). 10.00 Last Action Hero (1993) (84959630). 12.15 Fade to Black (1992) (617334). 1.45 Hear No Evil (1993) (955302). 3.25-6.00am Gas, Food, Lodging (1992) (89015272).

SAY MOVIES GOLD 12.00pm Two Flags West (1950) (59475). 2.00 Jalihouse Rock (1957) (65340). 4.00 Bringing Up Baby (1938) (6388). 6.00 The Railway Children (1970) (85104). 8.00 The Jerk (1979) (97949). 10.00 Jans 3 (1983) (677017). 11.45 The Verdict (1982) (50277562). 1.55-

ITE COLD 7.00am Lassie (6473017). 7.25 Going for Gold (6452524). 7.50 Spring and Auturn (5811388). B.15 And Mother Makes Five (7342746). 8.45 Bless This House (7341017). 9.15 Dr Who (50830475), 12.00 The Dawson Watch (9074017), 12.30 ft Ain't Half Hot, Mum (1914678), 1.00 Film: Genevieve (58624098). 2.50 The Bill Omnibus (59961901). 5.10 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (1520388). 6.05 Porridge (2263630). 7.00 Hi-Di-Hi (5310524), 8.00 Howards Way (5329272). 9.00 Minder (19333388). 10.05 Bob (1933336), 10.03 bill Monkhouse (23837982), 11.15 Special Branch (5920833), 12.20 Take Me Home (22906857), 1.25 Public Eye (4858370), 2.20-3.00am Shop-

ping at Night (6966079). SEY SPORTS 7.00am Cricket (4723388). 3.00 7.00am Crices (4723368). 3.00 Football Lives Liverpool v Man-chester Utd (9725253). 7.00 The Big League (39388). 9.00 Big Time Booting (50494). 11.00 Football Special (90456). 1.00-3.00am The Big League (97741). SEY SPORTS 2

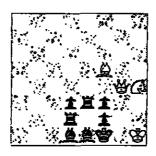
7.00am Soccer Extra (5675543). 11.00 Sports Unlimited (3622320). 12.00 Goals on Sunday (8376475). 1.30 World Soc-cer Magazine (2327388). 2.00 Watersports World (9111494). 3.00 Squash (1254388), 4.00 Karate (1266123). 5.00 Drag Racing (4254494). 6.00 Teachers Pub Quiz (2928307), 6.30 Snowboard Tour (2919659). 7.00 International Cricket (8577271). 9.00 NFL - Live (9148833), 12.00 Snowboard Tour (3355499), 12.30-1.00am Powerboat World (8342418). EUROSPORT

8.20 Live Alping Skiing (4241901). 9.15 Live Alpine Skiing (3023659). 10.30 Biathlon ing (3023659), 10.30 Biathon (4703659), 11.05 Live Alpine Skiling (2835524), 12.15 Live Alpine Skiling (8484524), 1.00 Live Ski Jumping (13656825), 2.45 Biathlon (7881833), 3.00 Karting (86253), 5.00 Extreme Games (5036), 5.00 Extreme Games (5036), 5.00 Live Golf try (70659). 7.00 Live Golf (24456). 9.00 Karting (45562). 11,00 Extreme Games (26920).

7.30am Biathlon (1122388).

Pastimes

Chess William Hartston



Don't stop me if you've heard this one before. because it bears repeating. It's White to play and mate in six composed by the German problemist Herbert Grasemann. It was awarded only a second prize in a competition in 1950, showing just how odd the judgement of problemists can be.

Everything centres on the compact clutch of black pieces. On the one hand,

they impede their own king's escape routes, but on the other, they form a fortress that is difficult to breach.

Since 1.Qh3+ Ke2 leaves black threatening to promote his f-pawn with check. one is quickly led to look at 1.Ng6, threatening 2.Qh3+ Ke2 3.Nf4 mate, or even 2.Nf4, hemming the king in to force mate by Qh3.
The trouble is, 1.Ng6

gives Black time for some-thing like 1...Rc2 2.Nf4 (2.Qh3+ Ke2 3.Nf4+ Kd2 and Black escapes) 2...Bc3 and e1 is freed for the king. fiddling unavailingly in such

You can spend much time positions, but the solution needs a spot of inspiration: 1.Qh3+ Ke2 2.Qf1+!! Kxf1 3.Bh3+ Kc2 4.Bf1+!! Kxf1 5.Nf5! and nothing can stop 6.Ng3 mate.

Perplexity

During the second world war, there were reports of chessplayers being arrested for sending each other what appeared to be coded messages. But how can chess notation be a code? Try this:

1 Ka1 Bb1 2 Bh8 Kc4 3 Rd3 Rh3 4 Bc3 Nb2 5 Bf1 Nd1 6 Nb4 h5 7 Qe5 Kc5!

A Chambers Encyclopedic Dictionary awaits the first correct decoding of the message opened on 28 December, Entries to: Saturday Pastimes, the Independent, 1 Canada Square. Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Princess of Wales, Duchess of York, Camilla Parker-Bowles. Winner: Paul Peters.

Bridge Alan Hiron

N-S game; dealer South

•Q42

North

C17

♦ K Q 10 7 **♣**Q985 95 910653 ♥4 QJ98532 **♦**A KJ 743 **♦**10

South **♠**K76 **♥AKQ982** ♦64 **462**

"I could have done better!" claimed South after going one down in his doubled contract

the question remains: who defenders. was right? In a sense, they both were.

doubled for penalties. East ◆A J 10 8 3 rescued to 2 0 and South reished yet and fought on with of returning a spade, declardouble ended the auction.

The play was soon over. West cashed a top club and switched to the +9 which ran round to South's king. Trumps were drawn but, when West gained the lead with his OA. he judged matters well by nied by the defenders, who fore leading another spade. amond for a ruff.

had now seen all four hands. That meant five tricks for the Relatively speaking, South

could have done better by South opened 1♥, West covering West's spade switch overcalled with 2.4. and North at trick two with dummy's queen. If, after winning with the ace, East falls into the trap bid his hearts. East had not fin- (as he might easily have done) 24. Perhaps unwisely South er is home and dry for the decontested with 3 v and West's fenders never come to a second spade trick.

To defeat the contract, East-West now have to work much harder. After winning with the ace of spades. East must play a diamond to his partner's singleton ace. Whichever club West leads next, East must on this deal. This was hotly de- cashing his second top club be- trump and return a second disc. It's

on-the-10W arts ats and litor of e said irprised dedicaoviding e best in w much v with. dminisitutions going to nd then ∌y don't puffery. ._you've decades

at bave icras inreign ofocal golf here all orced to wn as a uvinism. all team. Graham rful turn an out-

alayed by urman of · accuses ners and ≟dom. "It ie, these eally are y play us lon't kick : savs.





The big picture Raging Bull

Sat 12.15am BBC2

The Scorsese/De Niro partnership has just given birth to Casino, but surely their relationship has never been as fruitful as it was in 1980 when it produced Raging Bull, the uncompromising tale of the rise and fall of boxer Jake La Motta. It is not what you might describe as comfortable viewing. Every scene drips with uneasy menace – from the in-the-ring close-ups of glove shattering nose-bone, to the Oscar-winning De Niro (above) beating up

his brother (the incomparable Joe Pesci) whom he suspects of messing with his

Television preview RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert



Screen Two: Saigon Baby Sat 9pm BBC2 Sex with Paula Sat 9.55pm C4 Equinox Sun 7om C4 The Coronation Street Party Sun 7pm ITV The Beatles Anthology Sun 8pm ITV Cold Comfort Farm Sun 9.35pm BBC1

Fox's committed performance in Saigon Baby (Sat BBC2), Guy Hibbert's Philippines-filmed (the Thai government refused permission) Screen Two drama.

Fox plays a woman whose hormones are not so much kicking in as taking over. She and husband Douglas Hodge – something obscenely well-paid in the Far East – can't have children of their own, and the Thai authorities have strict guidelines as to who can adopt. Enter long-haul hippie John Hurt, look-ing very much like the John Hurt who died so miserably in Midnight Express, who claims Saigon is a hot market for babies. So, ditching her dithering, wimpish hubbie, Fox heads for Vietnam with Hurt - and a political awakening.

Saigon Baby is a very good drama of its type - believ-able, well acted and well written. Most "issue dramas" come with dots for the viewer to join up. Another fine

Would you buy a second-hand baby from John
Bradbury's first-rate adaptation of Stella Gibbons's mostly engineers, are puring theory into practice.

Hurt? This improbability might explain Kerry

1932 comedy classic, directed with obvious enjoyment

The Coronation Street Party (Sun IIV) takes the by John Schlesinger.

The sexy and well-cast Kate Beckinsale plays Gibbons's dapper, flapper orphan heroine, imposing her-self on a distant branch of the family and trying to bring these recalcitrant rustics "round to a higher common sense". Odd that two of the best entertainments in the cinema and on TV in 1995 - this and Amy Heckerling's terrific comedy about spoilt Californian teenagers, Chueless, should both draw their inspiration from Jane Austen's Emma.

If we ever find ourselves riding around in waterpropelled cars or aeroplanes, ejecting harmless water vapour instead of the present noxious, planet-threatening gases, we will have one Jim Patterson to thank. According to Equinor: It Runs on Water (Sun C4), we will have no reason to thank the scientific establishment, who are rigid in their orthodoxies, one of up to Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, and the

The Coronation Street Party (Sun ITV) takes the form of a quiz show, which in turn is an excuse for loads of clips. There's also a chance to win one of Raquel's dresses and and Liz Dawn (Vera Duckworth) sings "As Time Goes By". Say goodbye to those

Sex with Paula (Sat C4) was actually filmed in 1986, but never screened, a victim of the great Aids hysteria of that year. The idea's simple - and Paula Yates used it in her "on the bed with" slot on The Bir Breakfast. She gets into a compromising position with a celebrity/friend – and quizzes him/her (George Michael, Patsy Kensit, Elton John, Dave Stewart) about their sex lives.

John Lennon, of course, was giving interviews from drama this weekend is a repeat, but, as TV companies often say more in hope than realism, a welcome one. Cold Comfort Farm (Sun BBC2) is Malcolm inventors say the boffins are wrong – and, being do tracks. Thank God for Scouse common sense.



The big match England vs Western Samoa Sat 2.05pm BBC1

England have made sweeping changes for their Save and Prosper informational against Western Samos this afternoon. Along with saveral positional attentions, there are two new caps in the Northempton half-back pairing of Matt. Dawson and Paul Grayson, who will be: hoping to reproduce the sperking form, they showed for the Midlands Division against the tourists the other week, Will Carling (above) will be hoping to put all the talk about remark nighty into practice and inspire his side to end an unwonted three-match losing streak:

Saturday Television and Radio

BBC₁

wife (Cathy Moriarty).

- 7.25 News; Weather (5492535). 7.30 SuperTed (R) (7194264). 7.40 Willy Fog (R) (7622264). * 8.05 The Addams Family (R) (2002974). *
- 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S) (1687142). *
- 9.15 Live and Kicking (S) (84004535). 12.12 Weather (8509993).
- 12.15 Grandstand. 12.20 Football Focus. 12.45 Racing from Ascot: 12.50 the MITIE Group Kennel Gate Novices' Hurdle Race. 1.00 News. 1.05 Golf: Johnnie Walker World Championship from Jamaica. 1.15 Racing from Ascot: 1.20 the Long Walk Hurdle Race. 1.30: Swimming: action from the ASA National Winter Championship and Uncle Ben's Winter Swimming Challenge in Sheffield. 1.45 Racing from Ascot: 1.55 Betterware Cup (H'cap Chase). 2.05 Rugby Union: England vs Western Samoa. Live coverage from Twickenham (kick off at 2.30pm). See The Big Match, above. 4.10 Swimming. 4.45 Final Score (64643245). 5.10 News, Weather (3572622). *
- 5.20 Local News, Weather (6643245). 5.25 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's men are ordered to guard a very important telephone line (R)
- 5.55 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. England rugby stars Mike Catt and Dean Richards guest (S)
- 6.50 Auntie's Christmas Crackers. The BBC advertises itself (S) (572264).
- 7.00 Noel's House Party. Torvill and Dean are Gotcha'd (S) (199806). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Michael Barrymore activates the balls - but not before subjecting us to
- a pop song he's recorded (S) (887993). 8.05 Casualty. Mike and Rachel take over the romantic storylines as a stressed-out salesman needs treatment (S) (238055). 1
- 8.55 News and Sport; Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (193351).
- 9.15 Strooged (Richard Donner 1988 US). Bill Murray in misanthropic Groundhog Day form plays the Christmas-hating young TV network president in this updating of Charles Dickens's sentimental story. Hell, he even sacks a mildmannered underling for criticising his tasteless Yuletide show. "Rowdy stuff for the light in head,"
- 10.50 Match of the Day. Dennis Bergkamp and Ruud Gullit (if he's fit) meet as Chelsea take on Arsenal at Highbury. Plus, Aston Villa vs Coventry City (S) (6584245).
- 11.55 Golf. The Johnnie Walker World Championship from Tryail Resort, Jamaica (S) (892018). 1.25 Weather (2770104). To 1.30am.
- REGIONS. Wales: 4.55pm Wales on Saturday. 5.20 Wales on Saturday. NI: 4.55pm Northern Ireland Results. 5.20 Inside Ulster News. 1.25 Inside Ulster News.

BBC 2

- 8.20 Open University: Gwen a Working Life (5184500). 8.45 Kedleston Hall (7347871). 9.10 The English Language: News Stories (8648351). 9.35 Open Advice: Something for Everyone (1247535). *
- 10.00 Chanakya. Drama series set in 4th-century India (S) (8183149).
- 10.40 Video Byte. Asian pop (\$) (6524603). 10.50 Network East (\$) (9943332).
- 11.10 Bollywood or Bust. Saeed Jaffrey and Shobu Kapoor guest (S) (6724697). 11.50 Film 95 with Barry Norman. Last week's new
- releases re-Bazza'd (S) (7991974). * 12.20 Still in Business (R) (3151142).
- 12.35 III Saturday Matinée: Duel in the Sun (King Vidor 1946 US). Deliriously and hilariously florid Wagnerian western in molten Technicolor and famously nicknamed Lust in the Dust - in which Jennifer Jones's feisty half-caste Tex-Mex lass is fostered by a cattle ranch owner, only to be lusted over by his sons: brutal, egotistical Gregory Peck, and the more caring, sharing Joseph Cotton. Also with Lionel Barrymore, Lillian Gish, Walter
- Huston (41230167). *
 2.40 TELE Saturday Matinée: Solomon and Sheba (King Vidor 1959 US). The Old Testamant wise one and the sex kitten of the Nile fight and kiss in Vidor's lurid, uptempo spectacular. Gina Lollobrigida is the queen, while Yul Brynner took over as Solomon after Tyrone Power died halfway
- through filming in Spain (76648245). 4.55 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Aaron Neville sings songs of love (6411210). * 5.35 TOŤP2 (S) (183210).
- 6.20 One Man and His Dog. Cumbria is the setting for the second semi-final (S) (965516). *
 7.05 News and Sport; Weather (190719). *
- 7.20 Assignment. Julian O'Halloran, in Israel, uncovers the forces that spawned the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, and asks whether they can now be contained (S) (192413). * 8.05 TX. Profile of Frantz Fanon, one of the major black
- intellectuals of the 20th century (S) (236697). *
 8.55 Close Up. Scriptwriter and director Abraham Polonsky on Jean Vigo's Zéro de Conduite (S)
- 9.00 Screen Two: Saigon Baby, See Preview, above (95834806). *
- Hurst from last night's edition of the fading news quiz (S) (635535). 11.05 Unplugged: The Eagles – Hell Freezes Over. The title refers to more acrimonious times, when the laid-back American rockers claimed they would only play together again when hell freezes over
- (714177). 12.15 Raging Bull (Martin Scorsese 1980 US). Marty's visceral blopic of boxer Jake La Motta with De Niro in the lead role. See The Big Picture, above (38033036). To 2.25am.

ITV/London

- 6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News; Weather. 6.10 Re:Win.d. 6.40 Torn and Jerry Kids. 7.15 Saturday Disney. PJ and Duncan guest. 8.25 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (8470784).
- comes from seasonal Aviernore, with guests Frank Bruno and Menswear. Plus, an interview with Lenny Kravitz (S) (68333974).

9.25 Scratchy & Co. The final programme of the series

- 11.30 The Chart Show. Cockney Rebel are in the Video Vault (R) (S) (21622).
- 12.30 Speakeasy (S) (33388). 1.00 News, Weather (26941581). *
- 1.05 Local News, Weather (26940852). * 1.10 Movies Games and Videos. A look at the film Babe, about a pig that believes it's a sheepdog (1190210).
- 1.45 Cartoon Time (73160516). 1.50 The Munsters Today. The family take a TV director to court (S) (36111413).
- 2.20 The A-Team. Part two of the boys' Amazonian trip in search of a girl's missing flancé (R) (9584142). 3.15 Airwolf (R) (485887).
- 4.15 Speakeasy Does the Business. A round-up of the supposedly glamorous careers featured in the series (400061). 4.45 News; Sports; Weather (1723887). *
- 5.05 Local News, Weather (6374142), *
 5.20 New Baywatch. Part two of Mitch and Matt's harrowing Hawaiian adventure (S) (9649516). * 6.15 Gladiators (S) (464429). *
- 7.15 Blind Date (Including Lottery Result) (S) 8.15 Raise the Roof. Another luxury bungalow in
- Florida on offer. Have they got a job lot, or something? (S) (696326). * 8.45 News; National Lottery Update (692005). *
 9.00 Jack Dee's Saturday Night. Old-style variety show, with a miscast Jack Dee scowling away as compere, and guests including Freddie Starr, Paul
- Weller and Eternal (186158). *

 9.45 See Young Gurs II, Blaze of Glory (Geoff Murphy 1990 US). The Brat Pack reassemble for the sequel to their western frolics. With Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland, Lou Diamond Phillips
- and Christian Slater (751993). 11.40 Tropical Heat. "Nick finds himself attracted to a beautiful woman" - got to be the most informative
- 12.40 American Gladiators (S) (7718746).
- 1.30 The Big E (S) (4872017). 2.20 BPM (S) (5449272). 3.15 Best of British Motorsport (80303982).

5.30 News (28017). To 6.00am.

3.40 ZEM Les Misérables (Glenn Jordan 1978 US). The endlessly re-filmed Victor Hugo story given an intelligent reading by Richard Jordan as Valjean, Anthony Perkins as Javert, and a stalwart British cast including Cyril Cusack, John Gielgud and Flora Robson (686479).

Channel 4

- 6.05 Sesame Street (R) (9989023). 7.05 Ovide (R) (4177974). 7.15 The Adventures of Sonic the Hedgehog (R) (2793332).
- 7.40 Wowser (R) (5335852). 8.00 Trans World Sport (47351).
- 9.00 The Morning Line. Horse-racing magazine (S) 10.00 Blitz! America football magazine (53784).
- 11.00 Gazzetta Football Italia. Italian football magazine (46448).
 12.00 Sportraits. Carl Lewis and Lee Trevino (R)
- (52974). 12.30 The Great Maratha (2347177).
- 12.55 Tribute to Alexander Mackendrick. Stephen Frears introduces a short season of films (he didn't actually make that many) of the Scots-American director Alexander Mackendrick, who made three Ealing classics before moving to America for his cynical masterpiece, The Sweet Smell of Success (Ř) (54051177).
- 1.10 Mandy (Alexander Mackendrick 1952 UK). Mackendrick's recurring interest in child psychology got its first outing in his only non-cornedic Ealing movie, starring seven-year-old Mandy Miller as a deaf-and-dumb girl having communication problems with her parents, Phyllis Calvert and Terence Morgan (26296061). *
- 2.50 The Maggie (Alexander Mackendrick 1953 UK). Blustering American millionaire Paul Douglas gets his comeuppance from a group of wily Scots transporting his goods to a Scottish island he has bought, in Mackendrick's third Ealing comedy (53726719). *
- 4.35 Australia Wild (S) (1492974). 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S) (7711351). *
- 6.30 Right to Reply. Michael Grade answers criticisms that C4 has abandoned its original remit and is now chasing ratings and revenue (697). *
 7.00 A Week in Politics. Conservative politicians discuss the outcome of the EC Madrid summit
- (9535)8.00 The Hot Rock (Peter Yates 1972 US). Brothers-in-law Robert Redford and George Segai think they've executed the perfect heist in this well-crafted caper movie (72545239). *
- 9.55 Sex with Paula. That's Paula Yates they're talking about. See Preview, above (616974). *
- e. From *Love W* for couples to test their knowledge of each other (R) (344142).
- 11.35 Caught Looking. Gay male fantasies (R)
- (746351). 12.15 Doorned Megalopolis: The Rise of the Dragon. Manga mayhem from Japan (S) (2377036). 1.05 FYE! The latest entertainment news from America
- (S) (4101475) 1.35 Arrested Development in the House. The American rappers visit post-apartheid South Africa (R) (S) (5006388). To 3.05am.

ITV/Regions

- AMSUA
 As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos
 (33388). 1.10 The Big Byte (44424177). 1.40 Filme
 LI Robin Crusce, USN (34191023). 3.45 Alevoli
 (484158). 11.40 Filme Don't Look Now We're Being Shot At (67031887). 1.55am American Gladiators (3220369). 2.50am The Big E (4827017). 3.40am
 BPM (9607494). 4.35am America's Top. Ten
 (54738982). 5.00-5.30am Movies, Games and Videos
 (69001)
- TYME TEESAORKSHIRE
- THE TES/NORISHIE

 As Landon except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (33388), 1.10 seeQuest OSV (7941142), 2.05 Films. Agathe Christie's Murder is Easy (960887), 3.50 Airwolf (2123413), 5.10 Tynes Foll Time (3567790), Volks: Scoreline (3567790), 11.40 Short Shory Cinema (882622), 12.10am War of the Worlds (2807307), 1.05am Time Tax (3214901), 1.55am Cosch (2038272), 2.25am BPM (2736104); 3.30am The Little Picture Show (9683814), 4.25am Que tha Music (2837340), 5.20-5.30am Profile (1878524).
- As London except: 12.30pm Garfield's Thanksgiving (33388), 1.10 The Munsters Today (44424177), 1.40 Cartoon Time (73161245), 1.45 Movies, Garnes and Videos (340500). 2.15 WCW Worldwide Wrestling (8828516). 2.55 Airwolf (3118239). 3.50 Thunder
- As London except 12.30pm West No Neied Flames (33388). Wates The Electric Cheir (33388). 1.10 Movies, Gernes and Videos (44424177). 1.40
- As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (33388), 1.10 A World of Wonder (44424177), 1.40 Go Fishing (36114500), 2.10 The Big Byte (18913239), 2.35 Warner Cartoon (8774974).
- (1891,32.59). 2.35 Warmer Carroon (877,4974). 2.50 Time Hax (311,9968). 3.45 Knight Rider (484158). 11.40 Film: Don't Look Now We're Being Shot At (67/31887). 1.55am American Gladietos (3220366). 2.50am The Big E (482,7017). 3.40am BPM (9607494). 4.35am America's Top Ten (54738982). 5.00-5.30am Freescreen (69901).
- The Munsters Today (340500). 2.15 Warner Cartoon (59117500), 230 A Christmes Carol (4393993), 3.50-5.05pm Kright Rider (2123413).

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As C4 except: 8.00em Transworld Sport (47351). 11.00 The Persuades (46448). 12.30em Except (98210). 1.00 Tabute to Mackendrick (48840790). 5.05 Brook-side (7711351). 6.30 Hollyoaks (697). 7.15 Noson 108 (771153). 0.30 Famous 1277. 1288 (647210). 9.15 Hel Straeon (683852). 9.45 Holly Places (602790). 12.15-1.05am Doorned Megalopolis

Radio

Radio 1

@7.6-99.8MHz FMQ 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 12.30 Danny Bake 2.30 Jo Whiley 4.30 in Concert: Crowded House 5.00 John Peel 7.00 Lovegroove Dance Parly with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Essential Mix: John Kelly 2.00 Anne Nightingale's Chill Out Zone 4.00-7.00am Lynn Parsons

(\$6-90.248b; R40) 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Judi Spiers 12.00 Hayes on Saturday 1.30 staged! 6.00 A Viper's Tale. See Choice. 7.00 Comedy Classics 7.30 Christmas at the Movies 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Sheridan Moriey 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3

- 982-924Mb FM 7.00am Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. 10.15 Record Release. Trad, arr Willcocks: Quelle est cette odeur agreable. Trad, arr Ribo: Echols: A Christmas Carol. Billings: A Virgin unspotted (Chanticleer), Vaughan
- Sonata in G, Op 14 No 2 (Wil-helm Kempff, plano). 12.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to John Bird, one of Britain's most celebrat-
- ed comic actors. 1.00 News; Young Screenwriters. (4/5). 1.25 Composing for children.
 Features work from Britten. 3.00 Songs of the East.
- 4.15 Music Matters. Wagner's epic comic opera Die Meistersinger von Numberg in three acts is a monumental tale of human passion, intrigue and love based around the medieval musicians' guilds. Sung in German. Chorus and Or-Opera, New York/James Levine. Act 1. (6.25-6.55 Massive Reductions). Act 2. (7.55-8.05 The Opera Quiz).

(7.50pm R4) is a re-run dramatisation of The Flying

0.45 Book of the Month 11.05-1.00am London Jazz Fes-

- Radio 4 (92.4-94 GMHz FML 198NATZ LWA
- 9.00 FM News. 9.00 LW Test Match Special. Coverage of the third day's play in the Third Test at Kingsmead, Durban. 9.05 (FM) Sport on 4.
- 11.30 (FM) Europhile. 12.00 (FM) Money Box.
- 12.55 (FM) Weather. 1.00 (FM) News.
 1.10 (FM) News.
 1.10 (FM) Any Questions?
 Jonathan Dimbleby's guests in Macclesfield are Paul Boateng
 MP; Professor Julian Le Grand
- Director of the Centre for Policy 1.55 Shipping. 2.00 (FM) News; Any Answers?
- 4.00 News: Strong Impressions. Sir Roy Strong travels north and finds a shock or two awaiting him in the herizage honeypot of Durham. (3/6). 4.30 Science Now. Peter Evans

Steele in A Viper's Tale (6pm R2).

- 6.00am News. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather.
- 12.25 (FMI) I'm Sorry I Haven't a
- of the London School of Eco-nomics; and Tessa Keswick,
- Listeners respond to issues: raised in Any Questions? 2.00 (LW) Test Match Special. 2.30 (FW) Saturday Playhouse: Pinocchio by Carlo Colledi.
- examines the latest research into the influences of genes on 5.00 File on 4.

reveals his shady past playing in a band with Hank Marvin and Tommy

- goes below stairs to meet but-lers from yesterday and today in an effort to discover the se-cret of their urbane and imper-
- orginally simply stone gutters. Louisa Buck examines how they came to adom Christian build-ings and tries to discover who ned and carved them. 7.50 Salurday Night Theatre: The Flying Dutchman. Owen Teals stars as Willem Vanderdecken in the tale which inspired Wag-
- ion for the forthcon
- festival of Hanukkah, with Rabbi Felix Carlebach. 9.59 Weather 10.15 Word of Mouth, Sir John
- Wall takes a maths lesson at Ladymead Community School, Taunton. (7/8). 11.00 Personal Records, Jeremy Nicholas visits the home of Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, to explore their record collection with them,

and hear some musical and personal revelations. (3/5). 11.30 The Chronicles of Glovis.

12.30 The Late Story: The Arch-bishop's Egg. (Caribbean Christmas from Trinidad) A

cautionary tale of miracles and mobile phones. Written and read by Lawrence Scott. 12.48 Shipping, 1.00am As World Service.

Radio 5

11.05 Top Gear 11.35 Crime Desk 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 Sportscall 1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 7.35 Straight lyn on Saturday 10.05 The Treat-ment 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night

Classic FM

(100.0-101.9**時**友 Ref) 6.00am Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Countdown. 12.00 Classic Gardening Forum. From Huntingdon Rotary Club. 1.00 Alan Mann.3.00 The Saturday Alternative. 6.00 Classic America. 7.00 World Opera Season. Bizet: Carmen. Leontyne Price, Franco Corelli, Mirella Frani, Robert Merrill. Vienna Philharmonic Orches tra and Chorus/Herbert von Karajan, 10.00 Classic Quiz. 12.00 Andre Leon, 4.00 Classic

(1215, 1197-1260Miz WW 105,8Miz FM) 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ & Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00

Virgin Radio

Michael Fanstone.

World Service 1.00am World News 1.10 Press Veview 1.15 Early Visions 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.50 Write On 2.00 Newsday 2.30 The Ed Stewart Show 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Fourth Estate 3.45 Science View 3.50 Wave-guide 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short

7.00am Postcards from the Hedge (92697), 9.00 Ghoul-Lashed (434806). 11.30 Shoot! (31429). 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Mania (44413), 1.00 The Hit Mix (26061), 2.00 Wonder Wornan (68142). 3.00 Growing Pales (68142). 3.00 Growing Pales (5887). 3.30 Family Ties (2239). 4.00 Kung Fu, the Legend Continues (41852). 5.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (3239). 6.00 WWF (40697), 7.00 Robocop (61158). 8.00 VR.5 (70806), 9.00 Cops (43264). 9.30 The Serial Killers (45142). 10.00 Dream On (17871). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (29149). 11.00 The Movie Show (42581).

MOVIE CHANNEL 6.00am in Name Only (1939) (80603). 8.00 Top Cat and the Bev-erly Hills Cats (53264). 10.00 A

Home or Our Own (1994) (30209). 12.00 Seduced by Evil (1994) (43887). 2.00 Rigoletin (1993) (75351). 4.00 Two Much Trouble (1994) (9413). 6.00 A Home of Our Own (1994) (62887). 8.00 Red Rock West (1993) (67322). 10 00 Rock West (1993) (67332), 10.00 The Last Seduction (1994) (249582). 11.50 Black Fox (1993) (739332). 12.5 Incident in a Small Town (1993) (155291). 3.00 Praying Mantis (1992) (34036). 4.30-6.00am Two

4.00pm Shepherd of the Hills (1941) (3413). 6.00 El Dorado (1967).

Much Trouble (1994) (84678).

SXY MOYES GOLD

member of the Italian gentry. (67726388). 2.05-3.55am Claire's Knee (1971) (731901).

7.00am Lassie (1617806), 7.30 Go-ing for Gold (1523413). 8.00 War-ship (3754023). 9.00 Secret Army (3677719). 10.00 Neighbouso Ori-nibus (1923326). 12.00 All Cresnibus (1923320, 12:00 All Creatures Great and Small (5733210). 1.50 The Best of the Top of the Pops (75323516). 2.15 EastEnders Omnibus (2175622). 5.00 Till Death Us of Part (7914871). 6.00 George us of Part (19140/1). b. du George and Mädred (8631993). 6.30 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (42469264). 7.35 Taxi (7680852). 8.05 Bread (11976993). 9.35 Film: LA Story (5366535). 11.15 Film: Broadway

Danny Rose (2072264). 12.50 The Album Show (4363299). 1.50-

3.00am Shopping at Night (20460388). SICY SPORTS 7.00am International Cricket: South Africa v England (4829516), 3.00 Sports Saturday Football Update (980072), 5.30 Gillette World Sport Special (7326). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (4239). 6.30 International Cricket (633500). 9.00 Ringside Boxing on the Road (73581). 11.00 Bushido-The Ultimate Fight (23535), 12.00-3.30am Big Time Boxing Special

SEY SPORTS 2

7.00am Soccar AM (5608871). 11.00 World Wrestling Federation Raw (9512068). 12.00 The Sig League (95203429). 2.00 Ringside Boxing (6551622). 4.00 Powerboat World (2014158). 4.30 Angling Adventures (2930142). 5.00 Skete International (4350622), 6,00 Watersports World (2332264), 7.00 Baskethall (2745500). 9.30 Rugby. Union: England v Western Samoa (4781535). 11.00 Squash - Qatar nternational (8872023). 12.00-1.00am Watersports World

7.00am Eurofun (36055). 7.30 Basketbali (91500). 8.30 Slathion (38993). 9.00 Live Blathlon

(81245), 10.30 Live Alpine Skilng (6925603), 11.40 Live Alpine Skilng (92930993), 1.15 Live Ski Jumping (430142), 2.45 Bobsleigh (4855264). 4.00 Alpha Sküng (76516). 5.00 Prestyle Skling (5121). 6.00 Boxing (66264). 7.00 Equestrianism (29142). 8.00 Live Golf (12806). 10.00 Live Karting (28413). 11.00 Fursports (77245). 11.30 Pro Wrestling (47069), 12.00 International Motorsports Report (65123).

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roccosto, 230 Annot (3118239), 3.50 Thinder in Paradise (2123413), 5.10 Central Match - Goals Edra (3567790), 11.40 Boding (627451), 3.40am Johnder (485611), 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (1878524)

Cartoon Time (73261245). 1:45 Kright Rider (497622), 2.45 Thunder in Paradise (488974), 3.45-5.05pm Airwolf (484158).

As Landon except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (33388), 11.0 Wented Dead or Alice (7.1002) (1.1002)

Radio 2

Change at Oglethorpe 2.00 Mar-tin Kelner on Saturday 4.00 Nick Barractough 5.00 Gloria Up-

mas Carols. Britten: A Boy was

Choice Wagner, Wagner everywhere - Die Meistersinger (5pm R3) is tonight's opera, while Saturday Night Theatre Dutchman. As light relief, country 'n' western guru Wally Whyton (left)

10.00 (FM) News; Loose Ends. 11.00 (FM) News; The Week in

Queenan on how he learnt to despise the only truly American art form. 5.50 Shipping. 5.55 Weather.
6.00 Stx O'Clock News.
6.25 Week Ending. A satincal review of the week's news.
6.50 Ad Lib. Robert Robinson

turbable attitude.
7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. The word gargoyle is old French for throat and the pagan creatures seen adoming churches were

mer's farnous opera. Drama-tised by Roger Danes. With Elaine Claston, Hugh Kermode and Olivier Plette. See Choics. 9.50 Ten to Ten. A reading and

Harvey-Jones talks about the art of signalling and communi-cation without speech. (5/6). 10.45 Eight of the Best. Sarah

(63, 99% MW) 6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weekend with Kershaw and Whitteker

Mark Forrest (including Virgin Crunchie Album Chart) 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard

Story 4.45 The Multitrack Sessions 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Week and /in Praise of God

Satellite

11.30 Forever Knight (23332). 12.30 WKRP in Cincinnati (11253). 1.00 Saturday Night Live (82901). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix (7927369).

6.00am Showcase (82051). 8.00 Silver Bears (1978) (55622). 10.00 Ghost in the Noonday Sun (1973) (32622). 12.00 Quest for Justice (1993) (45245). 2.00 Oh, Heavenly Dog (1980) (427142). 3.50 The Worderly World of the Benthers Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm (1962) (53008429), 6.00 Meteor Man (1993) (64245), 8.00 Lifepod (1993) (69790), 10,00 Hoffs (1992) (98397326), 12,20 Bare Ex-(1992) (3633/320), 1220 Bart Ex-posure (1993) (1590494). 1.50 Romper Stomper (1993) (5618814). 3.20-6.00am Tennessee Nights (1990) (32325920),

(44429). 8.00 Help! (1967). (49974). 10.00 Hamburger Hill (1987). Bloody and realistic depiction of a Vielnam battle between troops of the 101st Airborne Division and the Viet Cong. (25806). 12.00 Darling (1965). Drama staming Dirk Bogard and Julie Christie. A young model decides to further her career via the bed-room and ends up finding love with a